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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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6-15-1935

## Justice (Vol. 17, Iss. 12)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

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# JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XVII, No. 12.

Jersey City, N. J., June 15, 1935

Price 10 Cents

## Los Angeles Firms Swept in Line by Dress Stoppage

**Brief Note Reports Union Scoring Through Victory—Cloak Pact Stands**

A wire from Brother I. Latsky, manager of the Los Angeles Joint Board, as we go to press, informs that a general stoppage in the dress industry, begun under the leadership of the Board on June 6, has already resulted in 46 out of the 66 dress firms in the Los Angeles market signing union agreements. The membership of Los Angeles is elated with this signal success. Little doubt exists that the rest of the industry will be mopped up in short time.

The individual cloak firms which have failed to conform to the collective contract signed three weeks ago between the Cloakmakers' Union of Los Angeles, Local 14, and the cloak employers' association, are being attended to now. Manager Blitsky reports, through a rigid registration of all shops and their employers, where dress stoppage will be taken at, once should the recalcitrant employers insist on continuing their anti-union stand.

## Chicago I.L.G.W.U. Officers Killed in Auto Accident

Myer Bornstein, chairman of the Chicago Joint Board of the I.L.G.W.U., and Nathan Wilensky, business agent of the Dress Division of the same organization, met an untimely death in an automobile accident early Saturday morning, June 8, near La Grange, Ind.

Bornstein and Wilensky left Chicago after midnight on Saturday for New York, vacation-bound. Apparently, Bornstein, who was at the wheel, fell asleep and his car swerved from the highway. Hit a telephone pole, smashed it and then struck a tree. Both men were instantly killed.

Vice-President Biele, who notified of the tragedy by the Associated Press, left immediately for the place of the accident to identify the bodies. The Joint Board of Chicago made arrangements at a special meeting held on Sunday morning, June 9, for a public funeral. Both Bornstein and Wilensky were veterans in the I. L. G. W. U.

The funeral, which was attended by thousands of Chicago members of the I. L. G. W. U., took place on Tuesday, June 11, from the headquarters of the Joint Board. President Dubinsky sent a message of condolence in the name of the I. L. G. W. U.

Both were married and leave three and two children, respectively.

## Hippodrome Filled for First I.L.G.W.U. Culture Groups Review

**"Marching On" Film Greeted By Stormy Approval—President Dubinsky Speaks**

On Sunday afternoon, June 9, a capacity house at the big New York Hippodrome applauded rapturously the first annual review of the arts and sports clubs, under the direction of the Recreational Division of the Educational Department of the I.L.G.W.U.

Every participant in the spectacle and they came from towns in Connecticut and New Jersey as well as from New York metropolitan district units—was a member of the I.L.G.W.U.

President Dubinsky delivered a short talk between numbers, stressing the remarkable advance made by the recreational work of the I.L.G.W.U. during the past half year and forecasting for it a great future. The entire spectacle was carried out under the direction of Louis Schaffer, supervisor of recreational activities of the I.L.G.W.U. Vice-President Julius Hochman presided.

## Atlanta Strike, First "After NRA", Won in 3 Days

**Seattle Dress-makers Run Benefit Ball on June 21**

The "Striking Dressmakers" of Seattle, as the members of Local 114 are known in their home town, have decided to do it with a song and dance. They will celebrate the grant of a charter to them by the I. L. G. W. U. on Friday, June 21, at a "benefit" ball.

What this "benefit" actually means is that whatever money will be realized through this affair will be devoted to tighten the picket line around the dress shops in Seattle, where Local 114, under the tireless leadership of Vice-President Rose Peowitz, has been battling a number of employers for nearly three months.

The dance will take place at Moose Hall, 8th and Union Streets. The entire labor movement of Seattle is expected to turn out in sympathy with the fighting group of dressmakers.

**Local 122 Settles Skirmish With Princess Company By Arbitration**

The first walkout caused by an attempt of an employer in the women's garment trades to cut prices or lengthen work-hours, subsequent to the Supreme Court decision on the NRA, took place in Atlanta, Ga., when the Princess Manufacturing Co., makers of dresses, ordered on May 29 a reduction of 20% on prices paid to all workers employed in their plant.

The reply of the workers was a strike; and so effectively did they strike that within twenty-four hours the firm was forced to accept a proposal for arbitration. The arbitration board consisted of two dress employers, two union members, namely, Harry Rogers, shop chairman, and Mrs. Joseph Parrie, and Henry I. Gilman agreed upon as umpire. The board voted that the firm continue to pay the same rate of \$1.39 per dozen for the cotton batiste dresses, and provided that in the event of change or reduction of styles, the arbitrator would undertake to arrive at a fair rate of pay.

While the strike lasted, public opinion in Atlanta was lined up favorably in behalf of the workers whose fight in behalf of NRA standards was applauded as a defensive measure to halt abatement of work conditions in that city.

## THE OLD PIRATE IS AT IT AGAIN!



As Blue Eagle Is Carried Off To Final Rest

## REMEMBER!

### THE PLACE—

Unity House, Páa County, Forest Park in the Pocono Hills of Pennsylvania.

### THE TIME—

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 21 to 23, inclusive.

### THE OCCASION—

Opening of the 1935 season of the greatest workers' vacation place on the American Continent.

### REGISTER AT ONCE!

If you wish to be among the first hundreds to see the new glory of Unity House, the magnificent new buildings, the new cottages and dining hall—don't fail to make your reservation now. The New York office of Unity House is at 3 West 16th Street, 4th floor—CR1054 3-2148.

## "91" Musters Forces For Battles Ahead

By Harry Greenberg, V.P.  
Manager, Local 91

On June 5, a meeting of major import for Local 91 was held in Webster Hall, New York. The meeting itself was one of the monthly section meetings of the children's dressmakers' organization. What gave the meeting its lustre of importance, however, was the fact that it was the first section meeting of Local 91 since the Supreme Court NRA decision and that President David Dubinsky appeared before the meeting to state, in unmistakable terms, what the position of the I.L.G.W.U. was in the present moment of crisis.

The reaction of the membership to the present situation in the industry was entirely a healthy one. The meeting hall was packed in "Reading Room Only." Over 1,500 workers were present, having travelled through an annoying rain from Brooklyn. But neither the weather nor the Supreme Court decision appeared to dampen their spirits.

For several weeks the Union has been preparing the membership for the expiration of the agreement on October 1. The membership has been repeatedly called upon to hold itself in readiness prepared to battle for greater and better demands. The slogan "One Union One Function One Pay" has been put forward as a guiding light. This meeting, where President Dubinsky spoke, was a test of the morale, the calibre of the membership.

### Dubinsky Sounds Clarion

The clarion call of President Dubinsky's forceful and unequivocal address of "The Industrial is firmly resolved not to yield an inch of ground to the avarice of the employers," was applauded over and over again. The Union has given its challenge to the employers, President Dubinsky stated. They know where we stand. Their hope is that the workers in the industry will not lack the challenge of their leaders. The decisive force in this battle will be the morale and determination of the workers themselves.

These words rang to the men bravely as a call to action; and they answered. They answered with repeated outbreaks of happy and resolute applause.

To those who understood Italian, a rousing address was made by Arturo Giovannitti. The tenor quality of his speech had an electric effect upon those present. And if there were any whom neither English nor Italian was familiar, they also cheered, for the spirit of confidence, of reliance in the Union, and of a determination to stand by it, was everywhere felt and thoroughly understood.

### Greenberg Pledges Support of '91s

Speaking on behalf of the entire local, the manager declared that the Union stood ready to give full support and backing to the challenge of the I.L.G.W.U. Indeed, he said, we do not look backward, for a mere maintenance of what we had in the past; we look forward, to a brighter future. Both President Dubinsky and the manager of the local reiterated that the morale of the Blue Team, by which many workers of whatever pro-

tion the codes offered, would literally be driving them to accept the logic of unionism and would thus strengthen the hand of the Union in its dealings with the employers.

### A New Regiment—The Bathrobe Makers

A new contingent has joined the great army that makes up our International Union today. These are the bathrobe makers. Although, theoretically, the bathrobe makers have always been a part of the I.L.G.W.U., under the charter of Local 91, in practice, during the last few years, the bathrobe makers have been almost completely disorganized, thanks to the disruptive activities of the Communist "Industrial Union" in the field. The employers in the bathrobe industry, taking full advantage of the division and chaos in the ranks of the workers, cut wages to the bone and stretched hours to the breaking point. The "Industrial," which functioned as a union in name only, unable to offer even the semblance of protection to the men and women in the industry, was finally compelled, a few weeks ago, to go out of business. The bathrobe workers were obliged to join a real union; they decided to enter Local 91 of the I.L.G.W.U.

To facilitate the entrance of the bathrobe workers into the Union, a special initiation fee of \$1.50 was offered for the month of May.

On Monday, June 3, a meeting of about 200 bathrobe makers, members of Local 91, was held in the Rand School. The manager of the local pointed out to those present that it was not so long ago that the entire Local 91, with its present membership of close to 10,000, was no larger than the body of men and women gathered in that auditorium. Thanks to continual organizational effort, however, the local has grown to its present size. The same energy and skill that were carried by the Union in its organization of the children's and housewares makers would now also be devoted to the bathrobe makers. The manager of the local called upon the bathrobe workers to pitch into the fight, a fight which, he stated, might very well be one of the most difficult that the bathrobe makers would have to face.

The meeting elected an organization committee of nine and chose two representatives to the local executive board. Hundreds of new members have caught the spirit of unionism not

## 2 More Locals In "Out-Of-Town" District Council

At the last meeting of the District Council of the Out-Of-Town Department, which took place on the evening of May 24, in the Council Room of the I. L. G. W. U. building, Vice-President Harry Wander, manager of the Department, moved that Local 160, of Mayman, N. J., and Local 161, of Paterson, N. J., be added to the membership of the District Council. Harry Friedman and Romulo Cerrutti were seated as respective delegates of these two locals by unanimous consent.

Local 160 controls two shops, the Halden-Parm, manufacturer of brassieres, and the Superior Pettit coat Co. Brother Jack Nieburg is the resident officer in charge of the local.

Local 161 controls three white goods shops and one cotton garment factory. Morris Backus is the organizer in charge.

Other delegates to the District Council, seated at the May 24 meeting, were: Rogo Longobardi, Local 163, Mt. Vernon; Louis Boni, Local 164, Newark; and Abe Glisner, of Local 165, Union City.

only in terms of economic improvement but also in terms of culture, sports, fraternity, the finer things of life. A choral group, a mandolin orchestra, a dramatic troupe, a baseball team, an excellent reading library, literature classes, group outings, have made Local 91 not only a stronger and more intelligent weapon of combat but also a source of intellectual and social development. In pursuit of its activities along these lines, the Union has decided to cover the walls of its auditorium with murals depicting the birth, growth and development of the local. Alex Haberstrof of Rebel Arts has been engaged for the task.

A relief fund to help members over financial emergencies has been raised by Local 91. The basic fund was derived from a special issue of the local's own publication, "Our Aim." The fund has since been swelled by the contribution of our hour's work by new members, by the voluntary contribution on the part of chairmen of the 3 percent of the dues they collect, and by voluntary collections in shops. Thus, by building a closely knit organization behind the line of battle and by heightening the morale in the industrial trenches, the Union today stands ready to march forward!

## Montreal Union Ready To Renew Agreement

By Bernard Shane  
General Organizer, I.L.G.W.U.

The contract with the Montreal clock manufacturers expires on July 1, next. During this year, several problems have developed in our industry not provided for in the old pact, which need adjustment in the forthcoming contract. One of these problems is the equalization of work conditions and wages in the local market and in the Province.

The great deal has already been accomplished along this line in the union shops. There are still a number of shops, however, which are hard on organizers, especially the factories situated in the suburbs of the city where the workers and many of the employers are French-Canadian. These factories are making a very cheap line of clocks. The workers are making the work so cheaply, however, that they are becoming a menace to the standards prevailing in the union shops.

We are now conducting a campaign to organize these factories and we have been partly successful in some of them. The process of organizing in this field, however, is of necessity very slow and some way had, therefore, to be found to stem the cut-throat competition emanating from these factories. At the same time, the government of Quebec, recently passed legislation that makes it possible to legalize union contracts. According to this law, if a contract is signed between a union and manufacturers who represent a preponderant majority of a trade, the minimum wage and maximum hour clauses of such a contract become the law of the Province and are made obligatory on all factories in the industry, whether union or not. A commission, representing an equal number of employers and representatives of the Union, is thereupon to be appointed to supervise the enforcement of the contract.

### Contract Registration Demanded

The Montreal Joint Council there fore decided that when placing our demands before the manufacturers in the near future, we shall demand the registration of our union contract. This recommendation was sent to all the locals for approval. The followers of the so-called "Industrial Union," who are completely discredited in the Montreal clock market since they attempted to break the organization a year ago,

now an opportunity to start an agitation among the clockmakers, denouncing the plan for the registration of the contract as a "sell-out." Our clockmakers, however, happen to be among these few factories and they quickly disposed of them when the matter came up for discussion in the various locals.

Local 91, the cutters' local, approved the recommendation almost unanimously, only five voting against it; in Local 61, the pressers' local, only four members dissented, while Local 112, a French-Canadian local, approved the recommendation.

The main fight was concentrated in Local 43 which used to be a "left" stronghold in former years. When the vote was finally taken, 81 members voted in favor of the plan and 21 voted against it.

The Joint Council and the executive boards then got busy working out the details of the renewal of the contract. Monday afternoon, May 27, marked the start of the conference with the employers. We hope that we shall obtain a contract which will enable us to work without a fight, although if a fight is necessary, our members are prepared for it as they never were before.

### Dress Cutters' Campaign

Our dress cutters' organization campaign is progressing rapidly. We had a setback in the middle of our campaign through the fact that Mrs. Frank Brodsky, the organizer, was forced to serve sentence on a conviction he had against him, about 8 months ago, while the dress cutters were an independent union. Mrs. Brodsky was charged with "conspiracy to intimidate workers." We are of the opinion that if he had had the proper legal defense, he would never have been convicted. At that time, however, he believed in the "Canadian Labor Defense," and they were his defenders in court. The result is that he was sentenced to serve six months in jail and to pay \$100 fine. After he was convicted, he appealed to our Union that we take over the case and try to aid him. Very soon afterwards, the dress cutters joined the I.L.G.W.U. and we tried to make the best of a rotten situation. We spent a lot of money in appealing the case and went as far as the Supreme Court. In the lower courts, however, the case was closed in such a way that no legal technicality could be found for the Supreme Court to step in. We are now trying to get a commutation of sentence for him.

### New Organizer Makes Good

For a time we were left without an organizer, when President Dubinsky stopped in and appointed Mrs. Donchik on the job. It took him a couple of weeks to get into the swing. We are gratified, however, with the results obtained, since Mrs. Donchik came into office. About 150 new members were taken into the Union. In 20 shops we obtained increases for many cutters, and reduced the work week from 44 and 48 hours a week to 44 hours. In many cases, cutters were not paid for overtime. This system has now been abolished. These gains have brought us into the campaign, and we are now preparing to call a general strike at the beginning of the Fall.

About 80 per cent of the dress cutters in the lower courts are now organized completely, and although we have no contract with the employers we, nevertheless, take up complaints and have them referred to the satisfaction of the members.



CROSS SECTION OF CHILDREN'S DRESS MEETING—Wednesday, June 5, Sew 2,000 Members of Brooklyn Section, Local 91, Grand Webster Hall to Root—President Dubinsky Addressed Meeting—Vice-President Greenberg Presided.

## '32" Inducts New Officers in New Home

By a Staff Reporter

From a little office on the ground floor of the International building, the Corset and Brassiere Workers' Union, Local 32, has moved into spacious and well equipped quarters located at 94 Fifth Avenue, New York, which were "house warmed" on Saturday, June 8, in connection with the installation of the newly elected administration of the local.

Local 32, in less than two years, has grown under the leadership of Brother Abraham Snyder, local manager, who is assisted by business agent, Alfred Breslau, into a membership of twenty-five hundred and controls, with few exceptions, all the major shops in the industry in New York.

Long before noon-time the new headquarters of Local 32 were crowded with charlatras, active members and representatives of sister locals, all of whom were greeted with fine cordiality by Brothers Snyder, Breslau and the girls of the union staff.

### Dubinsky Officers at Installation Ceremony

Preceded by mass singing of union songs, the installation ceremony started with Manager Snyder in the Chair. President David Dubinsky was the only speaker. He said, among other things: "To think that we have now hundreds of thousands of workers protected by labor agreements is a tribute to the strength of our trade union movement, is the greatest reward for the strenuous efforts we made to organize these workers and the best indication of the definiteness of the trade unions. Now at the NRA is gone, you have to double your efforts, you have to promote more than ever harmony and co-operation between the leadership and the rank and file, because the Union is the only weapon you have to defend the right of the workers, and it is up to you to make this weapon powerful and effective."

After the new administration was given the word of office by President Dubinsky and Brother Snyder had replied with a brief speech of thanks, the ceremony was concluded with the singing of "Solidarity Forever" and other union songs.

## Seattle Cloak Firms Sign Contract

Vice-President Ben Prostia, in charge of I. L. G. W. U. activities in Seattle, Wash., reports that Local 23, Cloakmakers' Union of that city, recently renewed its agreement with the Associated Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, making the following gains and retaining the most important provisions:

1. Thirty-five hour work week; 2. 10% increase in wages; 3. Five day period limited to one week only; 4. Recognition of shop chairman and shop committee; 5. Impartial machinery for settlement of domestic disputes.

In view of the fact that a concerted attack has been directed against the organized ladies' garment workers of Seattle for several months past through "committees of 200" and similar house-controlled groups, this settlement, besides being a tribute to the common sense of the cloak employers, is, by all odds, a decisive victory for the Union.

## Kansas City Firm On Unfair List

The Kansas City Joint Board of the I.L.G.W.U. locals has forwarded an appeal to all central labor bodies throughout the country, asking the attention of organized labor to their fight against the Stern, Siegan & Prins Co., manufacturer of the "Betty Rose" women's coats, in Kansas City, Mo.

"The above firm," so reads the message of the Kansas City Joint Board, "is maintaining a sweatshop through a system of the worst type of company union ever introduced in American industry. This company union is supervised by a St. Louis strike-breaking agency and every worker who joins a legitimate labor organization is immediately discharged or discriminated against."

"The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has put this firm on the 'We Do Not Patronize' list. The Missouri State Federation of Labor at its convention, May 27, 1935, endorsed the action of our International Union and has also put this firm on that list. We appeal to you to do likewise and advise organized labor, their friends and sympathizers, not to patronize the product produced by this firm. We also appeal to you to appoint a committee of your body to visit the stores in your city that sell the product of this firm and urge them not to patronize and not to sell 'Betty Rose' women's coats."

## 4,000 Workers in Baltimore Pledge Fight To Retain New Deal Standards

Organized labor's big drive to preserve NRA work terms in many industries got under way in Baltimore two days after the National Recovery Act was invalidated by the Supreme Court, on Wednesday afternoon, May 29, when 4,000 workers representing 100 affiliates of the Baltimore Federation of Labor crossed into the Lyric Theatre and attended the biggest labor meeting ever held in that city. The I.L.G.W.U. Baltimore locals took a prominent part in the meeting and turned out to a person to attend it.

Among the speakers were Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor; Joseph P. McCurdy, president of the Maryland, Baltimore and District of Columbia Federation of Labor; Representative Vito Marcantonio, of New York, and Charles Kreidler, vice-president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Workers by the thousand paraded to the theatre many of the dele-

gates led by brass bands. The keynote of the meeting was struck by Brother Kreidler who said in introducing the chairman, McCurdy:

"This meeting was called several weeks ago to urge Congress to extend the NRA for another two years and to demonstrate our strength to those who do not appreciate Labor's power. The decision of the Supreme Court overruling the NRA made it necessary for us to set new purposes for this meeting. Our purposes now are to hold the gains achieved under the NRA, to make possible further tests, and to warn employers who may seek to take advantage of the Supreme Court's decision by cutting wages and increasing hours of work."

Is your local fixing up an excursion—a bus ride, a trip on the river, a special train excursion? Why not let us help you charter the bus or the boat? We can also supply your outing with songs and a song-leader and experienced guides who know how to make the party lively. Write at once Hikes and Excursions Division, Educational Department, I. L. G. W. U., 3 West 16th St., N. Y. C.

## Paris "Midiennes" Win Speedy Strike

By G. E. Modigliani

Paris, France, May 24, 1935.

"Midiennes" is the French, or Parisian, name for girl-dressmakers. This appellation is more than a century old, originated probably from the fact that at noon-time (midi), these girls, by the hundred, pour out of the great shops on rue Saint-Martin, giving the boulevards a typical festive appearance. "They work" is the shops of ready-made garments or in the famous great Parisian dressmaking custom houses ("ateliers").

The ladies' garment industry (exclusive of the white-goods section) was employing in Paris in 1933, and continued to employ in 1934, from fifty to sixty thousand workers, of which barely 2% were men. The depression, however, has hit this industry very hard, so that today only less than one-third of that number are at work.

"They are a very young element—these girls who eventually end up in matrimony. Paris is fond of its 'midiennes'. Poets and novelists have dedicated works of lasting literary fame to them, and Paris has even erected a monument or two—by way of tribute—but until recently those girls have been rather reluctant to heed the trade union appeal.

Work conditions of the Paris "midiennes", therefore, have for years been far from satisfactory. Piece-work has been the rule, and piece-prices would be paid according to the variations—even the most slight ones—of the cost of living, as shown in the "index-boulevard" issued by a local office. Taking advantage of a fractional variation in the last of these indexes, some of the big custom dressmaking houses of "haute couture" (those who cater to the very wealthy, recently imposed upon their girl workers another 2% reduction in wages. It proved to be the straw that toppled the scale of the employers' greed.

In one of the big "ateliers", where some members of the J.C. ("unitarians") labor union were employed, a strike was immediately declared, which soon spread to about twenty other houses. But the strike remained confined chiefly to the custom dressmaking establishments, and none of the shops for ready-made dresses was affected.

ad. The number of strikers did not exceed four thousand. The disruption of the strike was made in the hands of the "unitarians" union, as they had taken the initiative. In reality, however, theirs was only a theoretical leadership, and here to go.

Both the "confederal" (right-wing) union affiliated with the French Confederation of Labor and the International Clothing Workers' Federation, and the "unitarians" (Communist) union had a small membership and could exercise only a limited influence over the strikers. To make things worse, there was also in the field a Catholic labor union, the counterpart in America would be a "company union." Moreover, its employees refused to deal with the delegates of the "unitarians" labor union, and the strike had taken from the beginning the turn characteristic of the movements either disorganized or laden with too much leadership. So, there were well attended mass meetings, but the demonstration peaceful picketing promptly curbed by the police, a lot of enthusiasm enhanced by the peculiar public appeal of the girls involved in the strike, and the bourgeoisie in the formulation of the demands, and no coordination at all in the attempts to start negotiations with the employers.

After only three days of strike, the Catholic labor union, better called only with the restoration of the wages and waiving the demands of the other groups, such as the abolition of the piece-work system, and the minimum wage scale based on the indexes of the cost of living, rushed to settle with the employers on its own accord.

Things looked rather discouraging for the strikers, when suddenly the "confederal" (right-wing) labor union, as an agreement with most favorable terms of the new agreement, the "Maison Jean Patou," one of the biggest houses, well known also in the United States, and the signing of an agreement much more favorable than the one agreed upon by the Catholic union. In fact, the agreement secured for the workers restoration of the previous wage scale, abolition of the piece-work system, abolition of the minimum wage scale based on the cost of living, and paid annual vacations of one or two weeks, according to the seniority of the employees.

This agreement with Patou had a decisive influence in bringing about a quick settlement of the whole strike. The strikers, heartened by this victory, sent committees to all the other "ateliers" with proposals of a new agreement and up to yesterday, May 23, 17 out of 21 of the biggest firms had agreed to these conditions. The others are expected to fall in line in quick succession.

This success, achieved after only six days of struggle, appears more remarkable when it is considered that the organization of the strike was utterly insufficient and badly coordinated. But the strikers, had their side a favorable situation, which forced the press to take a similar attitude. And the public was for the strikers not only because the "midiennes" are a lovely Parisian tradition, but particularly because these makers of fashionable garments for the rich "meedams" are frightfully in-poll, and here in France, in spite of the depression, and the reactionary forces set to take advantage of it, the protest of the oppressed and appeal to freedom and justice always find a wide, ready and sympathetic echo in the widest strata of the population.



Giuseppe Modigliani Addressing Strike Meeting of Parisian Midiennes (Dressmakers).

## Among the Underwear Workers, Local 62

By Samuel Shore  
Manager, Local 62

### The Problem of Outside Factories

The Supreme Court of the United States has never been too friendly toward labor. Only a month ago the Court ruled adversely in the matter of the Railway Pension Act, holding that the railroads could not be forced by Congress to set up a pension system for their employees.

Nevertheless, the assumption of the NRA by the Supreme Court may be said to have rendered the workers of the country a service in the sense of opening their eyes. Even the most backward worker cannot now fail to see that he cannot depend on the government or any other outside agency.

Now that the NRA has been definitely abolished and the rumors of wage cuts and increased hours have become a reality, it is possible to look back and evaluate its benefits. The NRA was primarily of benefit to the unorganized and unprotected throughout the country. These were the first to feel the effects of the depression. The codes helped to create employment by shortening the hours of the individual worker. And further, the codes set up minimum wages. Now, though it cannot be disputed that in many cases the minimum tended to become the maximum, nevertheless this minimum enabled the worker very definitely to know what his income was going to be, and enabled him in a certain degree to escape the insecurity of the predepression years.

In organized industries, the situation with respect to minimums and hours was different. Although it is true that the minimums were for better union minimums, nevertheless, it is a fact that the minimums provided for in the union agreements superseded those of the codes, and were not reduced by the values. Yet the abolition of the NRA constitutes a serious menace to our Union, and the reasons for this menace center about the out-of-town factories that at the present time are not organized.

We have already had ample evidence in the newspapers that the Supreme Court's decision has tended to break down the standards set up by the NRA, despite the fact that scores of employers and employers' associations in the contrary. Such action on the part of out-of-town manufacturers affords the New York employers the opportunity to raise the issue of out-of-town competition, and they in turn will try to use this issue as an excuse to attempt to bring about increased hours and reduced pay in New York City.

It is only within the last ten

years that underwear factories are being established out of town, and it is really a matter of but four or five years that some of the large firms have moved out of New York. In the cloak and dress industries, on the other hand, they have had large out-of-town centers for many years past, and the Union has had time to organize the centers in those localities.

It is obvious that the out-of-town centers must be brought under union control, too, and to that end, we are about to launch an intensive campaign to organize the out-of-town underwear industry. We must apply forces so that should any manufacturer move out of New York at this time, we could follow that firm with the aid of the International to the place of its destination and impose it with the fact that our Union is not merely a local but a national organization.

On May 23, we appeared before the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which met in session at Philadelphia, and requested the International to sanction an extensive unionization campaign in the underwear and negligie industry throughout the country. The immediate effect of such a drive would be to serve as a warning to those manufacturers who would seek to evade union control by moving from New York now that the NRA has been abandoned. The ultimate effect would be to stabilize working conditions both here and out of town through unified control by a strong union. The General Executive Board voted to place its entire support and all its resources behind our Local 62, and President David Trosky has made a public statement to the press to that effect.

At this time, when the labor movement is the only salvation for the worker, it is necessary that all workers rally to the support of the Union, which remains their only hope and protection. In this hour of danger we appeal to our members for an unyielding and undivided loyalty to our principles and our organization. We appeal for a solid, unified membership with only one end in view. And with this devoted participation in our problems, the Union will be enabled to deal with an iron hand in behalf of its members. In this emergency we will not tolerate any attempt from whatever source to divide our forces and upset our stability.

With the I.L.G.W.U. Victory Song sung as a challenge to that notorious sweatshopper, Forest City Manufacturing Company, the members of Cotton Dressmakers' Local 153, their friends and relatives, witnessed one of the most inspiring moments in the history of St. Louis trade unionism on Friday evening, May 17.

The installation signalled the initial appearance of a new organization that the workers have formed—the St. Louis I. L. G. W. U. drill team, consisting of 26 girls and their mascot, contained in a dashing white and red, the colors of the International.

Miss Artie Wilson, who has been prominent as a leader in the strike against the Forest City Manufacturing Company, was installed as the new president of Local 153.

### Perlestein Predicts Victory

A feature of the evening was an address by Special Representative Meyer Perlestein of the International, affectionately known among the members as "Papa Perlestein." After reciting the victory of the strikes conducted against the Forest City Manufacturing Co., Perlestein brought his listeners to their feet when he predicted victory in the present fight against this stubborn employer.

Brother Perlestein announced plans for a St. Louis Garment Workers' Union and read a leading article which will appear in the first number, giving some of the highlights of the I. L. G. W. U. and especially comparing the present Forest City strike, hard fought as it is, with other strikes in the early history of the International when men were crippled and sometimes gave their lives on the picket line in order that the cause might win.

### Speakers, Guest.

Officers: Morris Weiss, business agent, acted as master of ceremonies. Other speakers were Ben Gilbert, manager of the Joint Board; the Rev. Douglas B. Alderson, of Illinois; Illinois; Richard Brazier, organizer of the St. Louis office of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union; William Brinkert, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union, and J. Clark Waldron. Officers installed were: Artie Wilson, president; Marjorie Kretlow, vice-president; Charlotte Kotsenberg, recording secretary;

## I.L.G.W.U. Auditing Staff a Busy Group

By Siemon L. Hemburger  
General Auditor, I.L.G.W.U.

For several years, from 1929 to 1933, the Auditing Department of the I.L.G.W.U. was operating with a limited personnel, due to financial stringency. Its activities were confined chiefly to making periodical audits of the records of the branch in New York City and its immediate environs. Audits in the Eastern and mid-Western sections were made with less regularity.

### Work Expands in 1933

With the "New Deal" period which began in 1933, and brought about a rapid increase in membership in the New York locals and the chartering of new locals throughout the country, it became necessary to enlarge the auditing staff. It was impossible at that time for the writer personally to install our system of ledger books and records in newly chartered locals at a distance from New York, and we, therefore, issued a set of instructions which were forwarded to all new locals. We had hoped that some day we would be able to visit these new localities and see whether our instructions had been properly carried out. In the meantime, monthly statements of receipts and disbursements and other records which each local must, served as our only guides.

### Growth Brings New Problems

The Finance Department of the General Office was also confronted with new problems, and, as it is under the supervision of the Auditing Department, we naturally had to give them our cooperation. Special investigations are, besides, always being made to ascertain whether the locals are conforming with the fiscal provisions of the constitution.

The writer has just returned from a Western trip, during which the records of the following joint boards and locals were audited: Chicago Joint Board; Cleveland Joint Board; St. Louis Joint Board; Kansas City Joint Board; Local 62.

Frieda Winer, financial secretary, and Beulah Pace, sergeant-at-arms. A telegram of congratulations from Edith Phillips, of St. Louis, who has been doing splendid work in organizing in Dulac, was read.

Cincinnati; Local 67, Toledo, Ohio; Local 74, Chicago; Local 76, Chicago; Local 90, Elgin, Ill.; Local 114, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Local 129, Decatur, Ill.; Local 153, Cincinnati, Ohio; Local 183, St. Paul, Minn.; Local 187, Madison, Wis.; Local 188, Milwaukee; Local 204, Minneapolis, Minn.

### Branch Formed

Since these locals do not have enough funds to maintain an office, they are therefore obliged to use their meeting rooms or homes for this purpose. Audits of these locals had to be made arranged in the homes of the secretaries. In one of the meeting halls—it was a bitter cold day—we had the thrill that comes but once in a lifetime—auditing books while wearing gloves and overcoat. To make feasible periodic audits in the above-mentioned localities, we have now established a branch of this department in St. Louis, headed by the Mid-Western Auditing Department, Mr. Carl Seckstad was appointed auditor for this district.

The writer is contemplating a trip to the Pacific Coast in the near future, to make arranged periodic audits of the books of the joint boards and locals in that territory.

### Some Road Experiences

While in Chicago, we were called upon to make several trips to Milwaukee to make a special investigation of payroll records of a local which Vice-President N. J. (Nat) present in charge of Local 153, Milwaukee, was having a controversy regarding basic hourly rates of earnings in that shop. This case had to go before an impartial chairman and the writer was called upon to testify as to the charges on a Sunday afternoon.

This trip had its educational features, also, as, besides auditing union books we had to become acquainted with railway time-tables and had to be prepared to make trains at all hours of the day, night and even in the wee hours of the morning. We traveled on trains that moved so fast, we had difficulty to count the number of blades of grass in the fields (should one so disposed). And, by contrast, we traveled on a train that moved so fast, we had difficulty in bringing up the food to our mouths as we sat eating in the dining car.

### We Want Cooperation

We hope the locals will realize that, because we are unable to make monthly audits of their books, it is imperative that monthly reports be sent to the General Office by the tenth of each month, recording their transactions for the preceding month.

This department has always been ready to cooperate with the locals in every respect, and we, therefore, expect, in return, their cooperation in sending in whatever reports we may find necessary to request from them for the records of the General Office from time to time. Our auditing staff at present consists of Messrs. Siemon Hemburger, Kaplan, Koller, Weinberg and Miss Rock.

### Resolution of Thanks

We, the workers of the New Model Shop, 235 West 35th Street, have no words with which to thank our Brother, Business Agent, Samuel Mack, and also our Brother, Baby Mahan, for the important work done by them to help us with an overwhelming victory over our bosses.

For the Committee,  
Alice Kretlow

## JUSTICE

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EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL 182—Top Row Left to Right: Jessie Hill, Ida Martin, Charlotte Kotsenberg; Center Row: Alva Nodell, Beulah Pace, Helen Morekamp, Morris Weiss, Frieda Winer; Verna Lewis; Front Row: Min, Alice Webb, Artie Wilson, Meyer Polstein, Marjorie Kretlow, Jessie Prygo.

NEWS OF THE DRESS JOINT BOARD AND AFFILIATED LOCALS

# Thousands Pour Out For June 8 Parade

## Songs, Slogans

### Enliven Parade

Special songs and slogans written for the June 8 parade and demonstration proved very popular. The newspapers reported many of them and it is expected that they will be used again and again in Union activity.

Some of those that attracted the most attention are given:

(To the tune of "Three Blind Mice")

Nine old men—nine old men  
Hear what they say—hear what they say  
The Constitution does not permit  
Shorter hours and more pay with it  
The bosses were right whatever they did  
Kills blind men

Nine old men—nine old men  
See how they rule—see how they rule  
They took away the N. R. A.  
But the Dressmakers' Union is here to stay  
Let the bosses try to do what they may  
With the nine old men.

(To the tune of "If I Ain't Gotta Rake No More")

There ain't no NRA no more  
No NRA no more  
But the Union's just as strong  
today  
As it ever was before.

When we strike  
We win  
What we win  
We keep

Thirty five hours a week,  
We will soon work less,  
But never more.  
The Supreme Court abolished the NRA  
But it can never abolish our Union.

The Supreme Court ruled that Congress  
Cannot legislate on hours and wages  
But we can

Dressmakers!  
You strike in 1935 for a 35-hour week!  
You get it.  
Enforce it!

You know this is true:  
Less hours—more pay  
More hours—less pay  
More hours—More dressmakers out of jobs  
Less hours—less dressmakers out of jobs.

Supreme Court can nullify an Act of Congress  
It has nothing to say about our movement.

## Demonstration That Excited Press and Entire City



The Dressmakers were the lords of the garment district for hours after this demonstration got under way Saturday morning, June 8. All the papers broadcast the determination of the Dressmakers to enforce the hour and every provision of the Collective Agreement. Even Mr. Brisbane, the highest paid editor in the world, carried a description of the parade in his nationally syndicated column. Leaders in the front rank are Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Dress Joint Board; Philip Kapp, Secretary-Treasurer; Charles S. Zimmerman, Manager of Local 22; Luigi Antonini, First Vice-President of the International and Manager of Local 87.

## "Big 89" Displays Its Strength in Series of District Rallies

Summoned by their local manager, First Vice-President Luigi Antonini, who, first, broadcast from Philadelphia the call to arms of the General Executive Board and then, in his weekly radio message, urged all the members to participate in the demonstrations arranged by the Union, the Italian dressmakers of Local 89, rallied, in the last two weeks, to a series of enthusiastic and crowded district meetings.

The meetings in The Bronx, Williamsburg, and Boro Park districts have already taken place, with an average attendance of more than two thousand per meeting. Antonini was the main speaker at every meeting, the principal topic of his addresses having been the new situation created by the passing of the NRA.

Other district meetings will take place next week in East New York, on Tuesday, June 18, at 5 P. M., in the Labor Lyceum on Rockman Street, and in Harlem, Wednesday, June 19, at 5 P. M., in the Harlem Theatre.

The largest meeting has been arranged for Thursday, June 13, at the Hippodrome Theatre, 314th Avenue and 43rd Street, for all Local 89 members working in Manhattan shops. President Dakowsky will speak in English at this great rally, while Brother Antonini will promulgate in Italian the line of action laid down by the Union for the present hour.

## Shop Holds "Back Pay Party"



There are birthday parties, wedding parties, farewell parties, welcome home parties—in fact there are parties for every conceivable type of human activity. But it remained for our Union to create a new kind of party—the "back pay party." Though there have been occasions for many parties of this kind, the picture shows the first in history. It was held two weeks ago by the workers of a shop who received a total of \$800 when the Union successfully prosecuted the employer for failing to pay minimums. Each worker received \$74 and all chipped in for candy and other refreshments. The manager of the department, Brother F. Oliver, and the Business Agent, Brother S. Flocar, are shown surrounded by the workers. No picture was taken to show how the boss felt when he saw the workers celebrating. A total of \$5000 was collected from the jobber in question and divided up among the workers at various shops.

## Storm Garment

### Section: Press

### "Hours" Issue

Singing, cheering and shouting slogans, a vast army of dressmakers marched through the garment district Saturday morning, June 8, under hundreds of banners recording unalterable resistance to any violation of the 35-hour week.

By the time the endless ranks had zig-zagged through all the garment streets between 7th and 8th Avenues and 40th and 55th Streets, everybody with ears to hear and eyes to see knew that the Supreme Court decision scuttling the NRA meant nothing to the Union Collective Agreement.

The high point of the parade was reached when thousands of marchers refused to disband and massed in front of the Union offices at 218 West 40th Street. Here a platform was hastily assembled from some chairs and the crowds were stirred to cheers by Julius Hochman, general manager, and Charles S. Zimmerman, manager of Local 22.

Brother Hochman took the opportunity to hammer home the Union message that the 35-hour week was the heart of the Agreement, that only the solidarity of the membership could preserve it just as the solidarity of the membership had won it in the general strike.

"One look at this vast crowd is enough to let our employers know that the Union will allow no monkey business," Brother Hochman said. "When I think that so many thousands of workers got up early in the morning and sacrificed a precious day off to show their loyalty to the Union, I know that the vital spirit is ready to build a stone wall that our employers will find irreducible. All too often people think of unions in terms of their leaders. But we dressmakers know that it is the membership. You won the Collective Agreement in the general strike. You will preserve it. And in the time not far distant when we enter upon our struggles again, we will ask for more and we will win more. Long live the Dressmakers' Union."

From thousands of throats, the slogan came back echoing from the walls of the tall buildings, and drawing out the roar of traffic as far as the eye could see: LONG LIVE THE DRESSMAKERS' UNION!

A special feature of the demonstration was the songs and slogans printed in another column. Attention is given the daily press for beyond that usually carried a demonstration of this type was earned by the spirit and enthusiasm of the workers.

# DRESSMAKERS DISPLAY POWER

## Serve Notice On Employers To Keep Hands Off Agreement

### Thousands Jam Meetings And Respond To Call For "Hours" Parade

In a stirring display of strength that showed the Union was ready to meet any condition, the Dressmakers have served notice on employers and public that not the slightest departure from the hours, wages or other standards of the Collective Agreement would be permitted despite confusion that may have arisen following the Supreme Court NRA decision.

Climaxing the program during which every worker was to hear the position of the Union from the lips of leaders at section meetings in New York and out of town, was a mighty parade and demonstration through the garment district, Saturday, June 8, personally arranged by Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Joint Board.

Coincident with the NRA movements to acquiesce every dressmaker with the fact that the abolition of the NRA meant nothing to the Collective agreement, came the creation of machinery that will so expand the Union Defenders Committee that shops will be patrolled every night and every Saturday and Sunday to make violations of hours impossible.

The Union position as outlined by Brother Hochman in a message broadcast to tens of thousands under the title "Supreme Court Decision Does Not Affect Dressmakers" follows:

#### TO ALL DRESSMAKERS:

Without entering into any discussion of the ultimate effect the Supreme Court NRA decision may have on social legislation, we desire to emphasize in all the workers in the Dress Industry that this decision does not affect our standards and conditions in the slightest degree.

#### OUR AGREEMENT PRECEDED CODE

The 35-hour week, guaranteed minimum wages and our other conditions were won by us in the general strike declared August 16, 1933. The Collective Agreement was signed before the Code. We still have that agreement, and what is more important, we have our Union and the industry is thoroughly organized.

#### CHILDREN WARNED

We know that some of the big and little shirtmakers whose hearts are bleated for the return of the good old sweat shop days will attempt to use the Supreme Court decision as a pretext to increase hours, whittle away wages and generally undermine standards and conditions in the shops. We are serving notice on these employers that the Union will not tolerate the slightest departure from its rights under the Collective Agreement and the 35-hour week, guaranteed minimum wages and all the other rights of the workers will be protected by the might and power of our 105,000 members. These employers who try to play their usual tricks will get their reports turned in. . . .

## Meetings Rouse Union Forces



TWO FROM AMONG DOZENS OF MEETINGS organized to rouse the real strength of the Union against any possible attempt on the part of the employers to use the Supreme Court NRA Decision as a pretext to attack conditions. The upper picture shows part of the great gathering of Shop Chairmen and Shop Chairladies at the Manhattan Opera House, June 5. The bottom picture shows one of Local 89's section meetings in the Williamsburg Labor Lyceum, June 6. Before the program of meetings is finished every worker will have been contacted and the Union, always on its toes to resist any attack on standards, will have served notice that every clause of the Collective Agreement will be enforced to the letter.

## Locals Arouse Membership Section Meetings Addressed By Leaders On NRA

In a remarkable display of interest, tens of thousands of members have stormed meetings arranged by the various locals, or impulsively await other meetings scheduled as this issue of "Justice" goes to press.

#### REPORT ANY VIOLATIONS

Dressmakers, at this time more than ever, it is your duty not to permit any violation of any kind in your shop. Keep constantly in contact with the office of the Joint Board. Report your complaints without delay and the Union will take the necessary steps to help you in the enforcement of all the provisions of the Agreement.

#### OUR UNION IS THE POWER

We lifted the industry out of its sweat shop conditions by the power of our organization in the general strike of August, 1933, and we will maintain these conditions through the same might and power of the Union. Long live the Union.

JOINT BOARD DEES & WAITHBARKER UNION, JULIUS HOCHMAN, General Manager. (Detailed account of the activities are described in other columns)

Locals 10, 22, 40 and 89, through their managers, Brothers Samuel Perlmutter, Charles Zimmerman, Max Cohen and Luigi Antonini, have set up a standard that every worker must be contacted so that any lingering feeling of punishment aroused by the NRA decision will be wiped out.

The special section meetings of Local 22 were held June 4 in seven groups—the Bronx, Harlem (two meetings—one in English and a second in Spanish), Downtown, Williamsburg, Brownsville, Ror Park and Bensonhurst. They were very well attended.

The Local 89 meetings, each one of which was personally addressed by Brother Antonini, got under way June 5 at Ambassador Hall in the Bronx. The Williamsburg meeting was held June 4; the Italian shop chairman meeting was held June 7. Ror Park followed on June 12. The Needle (Central) District jammed the Hippodrome to the top-most balcony last Thursday. East New York will meet June 18 at the Bruynville Labor Lyceum; Harlem will hear Brother Antonini's message, June 13, at the Harlem Terrace.

Local 16 met at Arlington Hall, June 16. Local 60 will meet at the Delano, Monday, June 17.

## Fifty Local 89 Shop Heads Get Unity Vacations

Over a thousand Italian dress shop chairmen and chairladies jammed last Tuesday, June 11, the main hall of the Delano Hotel, summoned by Local 89.

Everyone knew that a big surprise was in store for them, as strict instructions were given to turn in, at the door, the admission cards, with the names and addresses of the holders written on them. Brother Luigi Antonini started his speech by repeating what the shop chairmen have to do now in the shops to lead the workers in upholding union conditions, but after while he turned to describe Unity House, the uniqueness of the new building, the exceptional improvements worked out during the Winter, and other alluring pictures of our Summer resort. Finally, he announced that the Executive Board of Local 89, in order to express in concrete form its appreciation for the work done by the shop chairmen and shop chairladies, had decided to send fifty of them to Unity House, for a week's vacation, all expenses to be paid by the local. The names of the lucky fifty were thereupon drawn out of the box where the individual admission cards were dropped in at the door.

## Union Always Held Correct NRA Policy

Hochman Analyzes NRA Decision  
For Shop Chairmen

After analyzing the Supreme Court NRA decision as only one in a long line which "set property rights above human rights," Julius Hochman, general manager of the Joint Board, told a cheering meeting of 3,500 shop chairmen at the Manhattan Opera House June 5, that "any organized effort on the part of the employers to attack the standards set up by the collective agreement would be met by a general strike."

To show that the Union had placed faith only in the power of organization and had purposely eschewed its general strike before the Dress Code was written, Brother Hochman quoted from a series of pamphlets written before the strike in 1935 and from the booklet "75,000 Strong." He used this as an illustration to show that the Union had read the trend of events correctly and had relied only on the power to strike as a means of gaining conditions for the workers. He said that legislative events were shaping up in such a way that only the organization of a political movement aligning the workers and the farmers of the country could achieve any real representation for the great masses of people.

After making it clear that history proved the working class had little to gain or expect from legislative favors, Brother Hochman delivered a scathing indictment of the Supreme Court which he charged made the operation of any real social security legislation highly improbable. He showed how the Fourteenth Amendment, passed to safeguard the rights of the recently freed Negroes after the Civil War, had done nothing for the Negroes but had been twisted into a bulwark of protection for Big Business under the word "due process," clause. He hammered home his point with the story of the Sherman Anti-Trust Laws, passed to safeguard the masses from the encroachment of monopoly, but used as a weapon against trade unions. The Clayton Act, passed to protect the trade unions from the Sherman Law, had in turn been used as a weapon against the workers. He retold the story of how the two United States Congress had passed Child Labor laws only to see them founder in the Supreme Court.

Extended cheering greeted him when he said:

"This action of the Supreme Court once again brings home the fact that we are living under a dictatorship of the courts and that this condition will not end until the workers and farmers of the country stand together in a political movement that will really represent the great masses of the people and bring about the social ownership of basic industry."

A stone-wall attitude of defiance against encroachments on the collective agreement and preparations for greater gains in the next general strike of the Union and of every single worker in the country months.

Among the other speakers were: Charles B. Zimmerman, manager of Local 22; John Gelo, assistant manager of Local 89, and Louis HOB (Continued on P. 5.)



# New System in Force for Hours Control

## "Eye of Union" Expands; Shops Enroll Members

Union Defenders Committee Will Now Be Able To Have Full Check

Expansion of the building committees by the addition of at least one member from each shop per week will now provide the machinery for 100 per cent enforcement of the 35-hour week.

The new system was worked out by Julius Hochman, general manager, and Max Bluestein, manager of the organization and UDC department, gives a flexible method of checking each shop every night and every Saturday and Sunday without having Union members burdened—each dressmaker will act only once a season.

As tentatively worked out the Organization Department will ask each shop chairman to assign a member to the chairman of the building committee in which that shop is located. If for any reason the member is not provided, it will be reported to the Union and action taken.

Enforcement for members found violating the hours provision of the Agreement will be heavily increased.

The new system aims to attack the hours problem at the source and is designed to prevent violations before they occur. The present "flying squadron" system can act only on complaints after violations have been reported. While the present method has been satisfactory in cutting down the number of violations to a minimum, it was not that nothing other than 100 per cent enforcement would be the ideal of the Union during a slack season complicated by the confusion that may have arisen because of the abolition of the NRA.

Brother Bluestein pointed out that, acting on the building committees when assigned by the shop chairman was not in any sense voluntary work—it is the compulsory duty of each and every dressmaker.

The plan was presented to the widely attended shop chairman's meeting, described in another column, and unanimously adopted in the form of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in our industry, as in others, the voice of the NRA is likewise to become the signal for a concerted offensive of the employers to increase hours, slash wages and undermine Union standards generally, with the obvious purpose of lessening Union control and bringing back the old sweat-shop conditions, and

WHEREAS, the 35-hour week and the conditions guaranteed in our agreement were won by the dressmakers on the picket line in the great general strike months before there was any NRA dress code in all and were maintained in spite of the vigilance and power of our Union and not by any reliance on the NRA, and

WHEREAS, the only way in which we can defeat the sweatshop offensive of the bosses is through rigid control and constant watchfulness of the Union,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT we, shop chairmen, declare that the strengthening and exten-

## FRANCISCA--An Operator



Working class movements of profound significance in Spain have often foundered on the rock of Nationality. The political aspects of Basque or Catalanist strivings for the paper signs of national liberty have sundered the workers and prevented a united assault on property and privilege for economic freedom. Our Union numbers many like Francisca from Spain in its membership. Thirty-two other nationalities in our Union have forgotten the tragic prejudices and prejudices of birth and closed their ranks against those who draw lines on maps to divide worker from worker. As we print these pictures of national types in our Union we can see that the past still lives strongly in our blood. But intellect has come to the rescue. Those who earn their bread with hand and brain will yet change the map of the world—they will wipe out the prejudice of artificial frontiers in one vast commonwealth of the working class.

## DRESSMAKERS "LECTURE" DAUGHTERS OF THE RICH

Many of the rich have gone slumming among the workers, not it remained for the dressmakers to do slumming among the rich.

Clariessa Dostie and Minnie Lurie of Local 35 may not know how to drive a Rolls Royce or how to throw a tea fight on a "swanky lawn," but they know the Union and the struggles of the workers and trotted up to Bronxville to tell the Social Register all about it.

In case you don't know about it, Bronxville is a charming village inhabited almost exclusively by vice-presidents of power companies.

Clariessa Dostie and Minnie Lurie of Local 35 may not know how to drive a Rolls Royce or how to throw a tea fight on a "swanky lawn," but they know the Union and the struggles of the workers and trotted up to Bronxville to tell the Social Register all about it.

THAT we call upon every shop as an obligatory duty to provide at least one member a week for the building committee so that the machinery of Union control may reach every single shop in the trade, and thus assure the most rigid and effective enforcement of the 35-hour week.

corporation lawyers, retired leather manufacturers, a couple of publishers and an extended list of executives. It is what the real estate agents call a "\$20,000 a year town." The chief industry of the young women in town who can think above tennis, polo and raising lawns, is social work. They have one of the finest public schools in the country and the Sarah Lawrence College.

Sarah Lawrence College is "progressive." Instead of diverting all their attention to domestic science, how to rush servants around and how to squeak French through the nose, the staff there knows that there are such things as bread, butter, rent, clothes and people who must struggle bitterly to get them. A class in "Social Psychology" is obligatory. Clariessa and Minnie were invited to address that class.

Their subject was "The Experience of a Worker in the Garment Industry and as a Union Member." And by the time they got through the daughters of the rich who made up the class knew a thing or two about the clothes they were wearing and how they came

## Matteotti Lives Forever!

By Luigi Antonini

Monday, June 18, marked the eleventh anniversary of the martyrdom of Giacomo Matteotti. The Italians have not forgotten. They cannot forget.

While walking in full daylight along the Tevere Drive Arnaldo da Brescia, in Rome, Matteotti was kidnaped by a gang of assassins. They threw him into a waiting car furnished by one of the tyrant's closest advisers, tortured him, ripped his chest wide open, and left carried his dead body into the woods of Quartavalle and hurriedly buried it in a hole.

The news, suppressed for a while, after two days became known to all horrified Italy.

When confronted by danger, the cowardly tyrant tried to place the blame on others. But on the 2nd of January, 1925, after the political crisis had been liquidated, he assumed full and complete responsibility for all the crimes of the Fascist regime. By his own admission, then, he stands before history as the assassin of Giacomo Matteotti, of the man who had renounced the easy life of wealth to embrace the cause of the exploited workers and peasants.

No, the tyrant could not stand any longer Matteotti alive, for his voice, that nothing but death could silence, was continuously ringing in Parliament and in the public squares, to document and to expose the nefarious and bloody Fascist regime which was destroying all the liberties of the Italian people.

So Mussolini ordered that the voice of Matteotti be silenced forever. But that voice is still heard today! It arises and expands from the woods of Quartavalle to the little cemetery of Pratta Poletina, from the Alps to Libya, across continents and oceans. The tyrant hears it. He is seized with deadly fear, struggles to keep it away, surrounding himself with bayonets. But all is in vain! The voice of the martyr

cannot be suppressed. It is heard by the Italian in Italy and by the Italians scattered in every land on the face of the globe. It is the voice of Truth and Justice—the promise of our fatherland's resurrection.

It is said: "Mussolini is the clench that tears and lacerates. Matteotti is the outstretched hand that gives..." Mussolini is the nocturnal scream of the owl. Matteotti is the morning toll of the lark.

While being kidnaped and then tortured, and fully realizing that he was going to die, Giacomo Matteotti—glorious volunteer of human duty—did not ask for mercy, but reaffirmed his faith, as had done Socrates and Christ, as had all martyrs of an ideal.

Let all of us send our thoughts towards the woods of Quartavalle, over the little cemetery of Pratta Poletina, to pay our tribute to the memory of our martyr. And let our thoughts travel also toward many other burial places in Italy, for, Giacomo Matteotti, symbol of all the proletarian heroes and knights of the ideal, brings to our memory the thousands of our other fallen comrades, murdered by those modern barbarians.

"We must not betray our dead"—admonished Turati. The Italians worthy of the name will not betray them!

"The darkest hour is the one before the dawn"—said another martyr of Italian freedom, Giovanni Amendola. The new day shall come! On that day, the scattered remains of Matteotti, Piccinini, Spataro, Lavagnini, Ferrero, Gobetti, Amendola, Turati, of the great and the humble will be concentrated on the same altar, which the Italian people will erect in the heart of the Eternal City—The Altar to Freedom.

That day shall come!

## Union Always Held Correct NRA Policy

(Continued From Page 6)

berg, assistant manager of Local 18, who acted as chairman.

Mr. Zimmerman called for a hundred percent cooperation from every member of the Union in upholding standards. He read from a long list of reports to show that workers in the garment industry were already being mercilessly exploited by pronounced increases in hours. The bright spot in the picture, he said, was the strike action immediately undertaken by locals, members of the International, who had refused to budge one iota from their rights. He pointed out that while the strongly organized dressmakers would be safe from "charters" this action lay in the watchfulness of the membership and their real support in the new building committee plan.

Mr. Gels, who spoke in the absence of Luigi Antonini, first vice-president of the International and general secretary-manager of Local 18, away addressing two other meetings, repeated the messages of the other speakers in Italian and the few-ill the many Italian shop chairmen who were present.

The meeting approved a plan to expand the Union Defenders Committee, described in another column.

## Greenberg on "Local 89 Voice"

The guest speaker in English on the "Voice of Local 89" Radio Program this Saturday, June 15, will be Vice-President Harry Greenberg, manager of Children's Store, Local 91, who has an important message to deliver to the members of his local.

TUNE IN FROM 10 TO 11 A.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME, STATION WVEB, 1300 Ke.

# A Week with the G.E.W.U. in Philadelphia

**ILG.W.U. Girds Itself for Defense As N.R.A. Crashes — Campaigns To Sweep Land — Employers Warned Against Wage, Hours Depredations.**

By M. D. D.

The executive body of the I. L. G. W. U.—its general board—met again in quarterly session.

This time it was in Philadelphia, during the last week in May,—a turbid, humid week of it, despite the fact that calendarically it was supposed to have been cool. Nevertheless, within the memory of this writer it was perhaps the most productive and rapid-working executive of the I. L. G. W. U. Not a small part of that was due to the fact that, for the first time, the rule of presenting written, instead of oral, reports was being strictly observed. What a time-saver!

When the meeting began, on Monday morning, May 17, everybody was quiet. "Go the Power," was not an inkling of what was to come forth from Washington on that same day could have been expected. Many wrangling had been reported in the press about the N.R.A. renewal period, but it was generally assumed that the two-year term would prevail. Certainly no one expected that before the end of the meeting, the N.R.A. would be no more "among the living."

As customary, the opening of the meeting was accompanied by a report from the President. Since the last quarterly meeting, in Montreal last January, President Dubinsky reported, among other things, that strikes had been tried on by the ILG.W.U. in the cotton garment and miscellaneous trades in Racine, Toronto, Cleveland, Port Wayne, Chicago, New York, Baltimore, Kansas City, St. Louis, Kent, O., St. Louis, Collinsville, Ill., Dallas, Decatur, Ill., Boston, Seattle, Worcester, Malden, Mass., and Puerto Rico. This strike season has been charged by the ILG.W.U. to supplement the gains obtained by the Union under the various N.R.A. codes.

The majority of these drives have come to an end, but several of them are still being prosecuted. These campaigns have already cost the Union \$150,000, but it was prepared to urge the expenditure of another \$150,000 to consolidate union gains and to return to the battle where it suffered setbacks owing to anti-union injunctions and activities of open shop interests. "We have been charged by the non-union cotton garment industry," President Dubinsky said, "and we shall meet that challenge on a basis that the rest will be."

The membership of the I. L. G. W. U. at this time, President Dubinsky stated, stands at 250,000 men and women, establishing a new high in the history of the Union. 131,000 members paid dues for the 17-week period ending April 30 last. The Union has collected \$1,893,000. It was for the year ending January 31, 1936, and an indication of \$145,000. It has collected a total of \$950,000 on the 1937 convention assembly, he reported. The I. L. G.

W. U. has taken in 14,000 new members within the past four months.

In discussing the New York cloak situation, President Dubinsky emphasized the point that, if the cloak jobbers do not abandon their belated attitude with regard to contractor limitation and jobber responsibility, a strike in the cloak industry will become unavoidable. "We, the president," he said, "should the strike be forced upon us, the International will collect all damages suffered by any of our workers as a result of any attempt to abandon limitation."

Written reports were read, on the same day, from Vice-President Israel Felsenberg and Rose Posnitz, on the West Coast. Vice-President Harry Greenberg, manager of the children's dress organization in New York, reported a flourishing condition of his Union, and on conditions in the bathrobe trade wherein he predicted a general strike next August.

Meyer Perlstein, international organizer in the Middle West, reported the complete organization of the silk industry in St. Paul and Minneapolis, the conclusion of the strike in Dallas and the first opposition the Union is meeting in its

strike against the Forest City Mfg. Co. in St. Louis, and the organization activity in the factory of the Nell Donnelly Dress Co. in Kansas City, Mo.

Samuel Otto, general organizer in Eastern territory, reported that in central Pennsylvania the number of closed shops manufacturing women's apparel has doubled and the union membership trebled in the past year.

Commenting on the struggle now being enacted within the A. F. of L. over the industrial union versus craft unionism idea, President Dubinsky said the issue will be brought back next fall to the convention of the A. F. of L. for clarification. The resolution adopted on this subject last October at San Francisco did not give the leadership a free hand to proceed to organize the mass production industries along industrial union lines as commonly supposed. The next convention should bring greater clarity to the issue and define the forces within the A. F. of L. for and against that issue.

Then came the crash,—nothing short of that word could describe the effect that the Washington action of the Supreme Court in its annulment of the N.R.A. produced on the members of the Gen-

eral Executive Board. It actually disrupted the session for a while, but by piece the sections of that decision were brought into the meeting room and its contents were being digested. Followed hurried calls to Washington and New York exchanges of opinion, more wires confirming the full import of the Court's pronouncement spelling the annulment of the principal recovery legislation which nearly two years ago appeared to have stood up under every attack.

The meeting then adjourned until the next morning.

The most important business transacted on the following day was a declaration by the General Executive Board of the membership of the I. L. G. W. U., dealing with the crisis caused by the annulment of the Supreme Court decision of the N.R.A. and the code.

President Dubinsky was the first to move to that effect, emphasizing the full historic significance of the Court's decision for American labor. Organized labor must immediately reform its lines of defense to deal with the new situation. The declaration follows: (150,000 copies of this declaration were subsequently printed by the General Office and forwarded to all members.)

The rest of the day was taken by two extensive reports—one on the dress industry by Vice-President Julius Hochman, general manager of the New York Dress Guild Board, and another on the New York cloak industry by Vice-President Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Casket Guild Board.

Brother Hochman declared that it was absolutely no chance of renewal of the present agreements in the dress industry when they expire next winter without a real battle with the dress jobbers and manufacturers. He added that the Dress-Joint Board has already reached, through a special 15-month pact, \$350,000 toward a general strike fund. The New York Casket Guild's total cash resources, including the local treasuries, are \$300,000. Vice-President Hochman points out that this way may be found to meet the needs of the workers in the silk dress trade industry. At least 15,000, since the last general strike in 1934, have come from the children's dress and cotton garment trades into the dress shops and by the higher wage levels of the silk dress shops. Hochman also suggested that cotton dress manufacturers in New York market be no longer classed with house dress and that they be placed under

## To The Members of The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Slaves and Brothers:

A grave situation has arisen in the national life of America. Quite unexpectedly, the United States Supreme Court, with one blow, has destroyed the entire N.R.A. structure and has endangered the labor gains achieved under it over a period of two years.

The decision of the Supreme Court has been greeted with joy and acclamation by every enemy of the workers. Every chisel of labor and by every reactionist. It has deepened the organized labor and all forces of progress in our country.

The decision of the Supreme Court in nullifying the N.R.A. we admit, is a defeat for the American working people. Whatever our opinions as trade unionists may have been regarding the defects of the N.R.A., we never failed to recognize that through the National Recovery Act, for the first time American industrial history, minimum wage and maximum hours for millions of unprotected workers were established and the abolition of child labor, for which the labor movement had been contending for many years, became a fact.

The N.R.A. also, especially during its early period, served as a powerful incentive for many trade unions to organize tens of thousands of unorganized workers and to strengthen their position and influence in their respective industries. Our own Union, we may point out, took advantage of the opportunity offered by N.R.A. at the right moment, and it increased its membership fourfold, reduced work hours of all our workers, increased wages and improved other work standards, thereby bringing hope for a fuller and better life to masses of workers who until then had been submerged by the shadows of darkness and despair.

Slaves and Brothers! Together with all other labor organizations in America, we are facing today an emergency situation growing out of the frightful setback. It is difficult to say what the future developments will be. One thing is certain. The employers today are organized better than before. Within the past two years, they have formed powerful associations on a national scale and there is no doubt that if given an opportunity, they would take every safeguard and every advantage made by law. We must, therefore, meet the situation as courageous, class-conscious organized workers.

The Supreme Court, which places property above human interests, to which the dry-as-dust terms of the constitution, written one hundred and fifty years ago, are more precious than the lives and the needs of millions of workers, has nullified the N.R.A., could declare it unconstitutional, but it cannot take away the economic power of the workers to organize, to strike and to protect through their organizations work standards gained at the cost of untold sacrifice. Furthermore, this development is the strongest argument for independent political action by labor. Had labor been represented in Congress by senators and congressmen designated and chosen by them, labor's voice would have been consulted in passing upon the nominees for the Supreme Court, which is vested with the power of approving or nullifying labor and social legislation.

Members of the I. L. G. W. U.! Despite adverse court decisions, our Union, as part of the American labor movement, will continue to fulfill its duty and to discharge its mission. The General Executive Board carries a warning to all employers in our industry, who might be tempted to take advantage of the present conditions to reduce wage scales and increase work hours, that our wage scales shall remain untempered with, that the 35-hour week is here to stay and that we shall press for even a shorter work-week in order to reduce unemployment, whether the code continue or not.

To the employers in the cloak industry of New York, where we are on the eve of the expiration of agreements and where some employers are attempting to wrest from the workers fundamental safeguards and work standards, we declare with particular emphasis: Every attempt to revive the spirit of exploitation and exploitation will fail. The organized workers in the cloak industry of New York and powerful enough to resist aggression and will protect their living and working conditions at all cost.

Slaves and Brothers! The General Executive Board, in session in Philadelphia, has taken the necessary steps to be ready for an emergency. We have issued orders to prepare a complete machinery for action in the New York cloak industry. At this hour, every man and woman belonging to our organization should be ready, through our united economic strength, to rally round the Union as never before for complete domination of the market of all our gains and to continue fighting for additional improvements.

The General Executive Board has issued a call to all our organizers throughout the country to be on guard to protect the interests of the workers and to meet with strikes every attempt that will be made either by individual employers or by groups of employers, to weaken our organization or to reduce its influence.

Furthermore, the General Executive Board has decided to inaugurate additional campaigns throughout the country and to reinforce our organizing staffs in all territories where employers will attempt to bring back sweatshop conditions which existed only a short while ago, and where we succeeded in abolishing exploitation and in replacing it with humane work standards.

We pledge to you that we shall leave nothing undone at the present hour to maintain our established work standards in every market. Our Union was in a position to protect the interests of our workers and to stand with our workers in their struggle against our markets completely organized and our financial resources, our fighting morale on a higher plane than ever before, we are in a position to protect the interests of our members wherever an attack upon them is made.

We urge all our unorganized workers engaged in our industry to wish to say the following:

You stayed away from labor organization, you had no use for the union because you were relying on the government only to furnish you a shorter work-week and better wages. By this time, however, you are so deeply convinced that the only dependable force that can protect your interests as workers is a labor union. We call upon you, therefore, to join the ranks of your fellow workers in one mighty union in defense of your working and living conditions.

Despite the disastrous situation caused by the decision of the Supreme Court, let us take courage from the fact that we have a strong and united organization in the industry that we have built up a fortress that no enemy can destroy. Whether the N.R.A. will be brought back in a modified form or not, or whether any similar labor legislation will be enacted, the organized ladies' garment workers will resist with all their might the return of the sweatshop and the exploitation of the workers. We call upon the chambers of commerce, of the manufacturers' associations and of their henchmen and supporters, we are determined that the old order shall not come back!

Long live the united power of the organized workers!  
Forward to victory for a better day and a happier life!  
Long live the labor movement!  
Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union!

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

DAVID DUBINSKY,

President.

# Union "Line" Reveals Confidence

(Continued from Page 8)

the jurisdiction of the New York Dress Joint Board.

Vice-President Hochman further reported that the last spring season was worse than the previous spring season. 13 million coats and suits were sold this spring, a million and a quarter less than in 1934. The cause explained for the shrinkage was that he had to offer what the industry has expanded, taking in more workers in the cheaper lines. While cotton dresses were a small factor originally in the New York market, today \$324 machines operated by 18,000 workers are engaged in cotton dress manufacture, the bulk of it in Manhattan. Production was seven coats daily, chiefly in the cheaper line. To date, the Union has collected \$122,000 in back pay, he stated, from 35 jobbers. Next year, Hochman concluded his report, will be a critical year for the dress industry.

## III.

In the afternoon of that day, Theodore Nagler, reporting for the New York Cloak Joint Board, gave an account of the negotiations being carried on for the past two months with the various employers' groups in the coat and suit industry and the deadlock which has ensued between the Union and the jobbers' association. The Joint Board and all the locals affiliated with it, he declared, are ready for any consequences that might arise from these negotiations. The breakdown of the NRA, Vice-President Nagler continued, might give some of the employers an incentive to try to measure strength with the Union but they will find that bite too big for them to swallow. The Joint Board has already collected over a quarter of a million dollars on the \$10 reserve fund tax and, together with all the funds of the individual locals, the treasury of the cloak makers' organization is over three quarters of a million dollars strong.

In describing the efforts of some jobbers to thwart proper control of work conditions and pay rates, Brother Nagler charged that the number of them, when setting piece rate prices, have attempted to substitute dummy garments, which they do not intend to produce, or have submitted only a partial line of their samples for settlement, expecting that the rest of their styles will be substituted by the settled samples on completed garments. He further stated that overstepping with dresses still constitutes a problem that the Union must settle directly, now that the NRA has been abolished. Settlement of this problem is being pressed not only by the cloak union membership but also by legitimate cloak manufacturers, who cannot stand the competition from dress shops making cloaks under inferior piece rate conditions.

Before the meeting adjourned for the day, Vice-President Kramer of the Union read a detailed report on the Boston market. All the existing agreements in Boston expired on February 15, and ever since that time the local organization, the Joint Board and all the cloak and dress locals had been fighting on terms on the renewed contracts. The settlement with the cloak associations retain all the conditions salient last year, including week-work and cover every cloak firm in the city. In the skirt industry a strike became necessary until the employers, 14 in number, were made to sign up with the Joint Board.

In the dress industry, the strike to force a renewal of that agreement was called on May 2 and, after a week of hectic fighting,

ended in a victory for the organization despite the fact that it was called late in the season. The organized membership in Boston now consists of 1,100 workers in 18 factories in 1935.

In addition to this, the Boston Joint Board is assisting in the management of Local 24, the railroad workers, whose organizational security is supported by Brother David Glasgow, I.L.G.W.U. organizer of Local 15, Worcester, an old cloak local, where the Joint Board was to go through a strike early this spring season to compel the local manufacturers to give up schemes for evading union control of Local 178, Fall River, a cotton garment organization, well managed by Brother William Kane, who Vice-President Kramer had visited several times in connection with negotiations with employers, and Local 193, Lowell, in a textile plant. Violations of the pact were located and where a strike will have to be called sooner or later to force collective bargaining and union recognition.

Vice-President Kramer also reported on the unsuccessful though brilliant fight put up by the workers in the Malden Knitting Mills to obtain union conditions and a new shop in that plant. The strike, which lasted a number of weeks, was given up on April 23, after an injunction had been placed of the factory practically impossible and after the workers had pulled scores upon scores of strikers on contempt of court and assault charges. Before voting for discontinuing the strike, the workers instructed their delegates to thank the I. L. O. W. U. for the moral and financial support given them in this glorious battle. Dave Glasgow was in charge of this strike.

## IV.

On the morning of the third day of the meeting, Wednesday, May 23, a committee from the New York Cloak Joint Board, consisting of Reuben Zuckerman, chairman, Louis Langer, secretary, and Edward Molinsky, appeared and requested the General Executive Board to sanction a general strike in the New York cloak industry in case negotiations with the employers for a peaceful settlement prove futile.

The General Executive Board at once took up this matter and granted the request of the New York Cloak Joint Board in the following resolution:

"The General Executive Board endorses a strike in the cloak and suit industry in the event its conference committee cannot reach an agreement with the employers' associations, and pledges, in such case, full moral and material aid to the International and of all its affiliated bodies until the strike is won. The general strike of the New York cloakmakers is viewed by us as the supreme test of organizational vitality and power of resistance against the aggression of the employers, as the cloakmakers' Union of New York is the chief division of the International and has been its backbone for the past thirty years."

Vice-President Morris Blais of Chicago rendered an interesting report of the struggle of the cotton garment strikers in Chicago, in Detroit, Ill., in Ft. Wayne, Ind., and in other places near Chicago during the past six months. He described the wonderful spirit of the women strikers, most of whom were newcomers in the Union yet displayed remarkable fighting qualities. He stated further that the situation of the cloak and silk dress organizations in Chicago is in excellent shape and that the members of these unions have displayed a readiness and willingness to assist in strikes of fellow garment work-

ers in other branches that are highly commendable.

Abraham Kagan, manager of the Amalgamated Cooperative House in New York City, appeared in behalf of the Eastern Cooperative League, with a plan for organizing all metropolitan milk consumers on a city-wide basis for cooperative milk supply. He asked for support in publicizing and promoting this plan in New York City. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee after a sympathetic hearing.

Dr. Langford of Philadelphia appeared in behalf of the Deborah Consumptive Relief Society and made an eloquent appeal for aid to the inmates of that institution for nursing in the raising of a building fund for the housing of new patients. This matter was referred to the same committee which is raising money for the Lee Angeles manufacturer, with instructions to aid the Deborah institution as well.

Algeron Lee, educational director of the Rand School, appeared and spoke for a Morris Hillquit Memorial Publishing fund. This fund will print and spread informative literature for the labor and Socialist movement, he said, and would be self-supporting.

## V.

The following day, Decoration Day, was just as busy a day for the G. E. B., which continued in session until late at night. In the morning, Abraham Snyder, manager of Local 31, Corset and Brasserie, appeared and described the growth of his organization from 1,300 a year ago to 2,500 at present. Agreements in the corset industry expire this September and an organization drive will be started in August to bring into line the rest of the industry in such centers as Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. Brother Snyder asked the International to secure for Local 31 the cooperation of Vice-Presidents Kramer, Blais and Reisher, as well as of Vice-President Wander in the Eastern Out-of-Town zone.

Brother Samuel Shore, manager of Local 62, the White Goods Workers of New York, appeared with

Miss Sarah Shapiro, asking that the I. L. O. W. U. give them help in organizing underwear factories in cities outside of New York. She reported that Local 62 has 18,000 members in good standing and that it is the third largest workmen's organization in the women's apparel line, employing in both women and knitted underwear manufacture about 18,000 workers. The union is Philadelphia, Boston and Philadelphia, he further said, are offering merciless competition to the organized part of the industry in New York and surrounding cities.

Vice-President Louis Levy, manager of Local 1, presented an interesting report of the cloak operators' organization in New York City. Harmony and solidarity, he declared, prevail today in Local 1 instead of the discord and rancor which made its existence precarious only a short time ago. The local has 7,500 members in good standing and has increased its dues from \$1 to 50c a week. The local has, in the treasury, now \$100,000. During the coming Fall Local 1 is planning to have a fortieth anniversary celebration.

Frederick P. Umhey, executive secretary of the I. L. O. W. U., reported on Unity House and stated that after a strenuous period of construction the International resort in the Pocono Mountains will have its new building ready and in shape for occupancy for the opening date of the season on Friday, June 21.

The Union Health Center, Secretary Umhey reported, has completely discontinued its dental clinic but its medical clinics are growing rapidly and have averaged during the first four months of this year an attendance of 4,500 per month. In view of its growth, it was decided that larger and more convenient quarters be taken for the Union Health Center in the immediate future.

Umhey also reported, in brief, on the progress of expansion of the Educational Department and brought up the subject of a Workmen's Compensation Bureau for New York locals, which has been under consideration for some time.

VI.

The fourth and last day of the session, Friday, May 25, was devoted largely to action upon the various resolutions and recommendations brought in by President Dubinsky and made by the committees which appeared before the Board.

The G. E. B. approved an agreement entered into by President Dubinsky and Vice-President Katsky of Cleveland with the Fritts-Biederman Company of that city, by which the workers of that shop are granted a separate trial in view of the special conditions prevailing in the Fritts-Biederman factory and of the unremittent efforts over a period of many years to organize that shop.

The Board unanimously voted to continue without abatement the cotton garment strikes in Chicago, Decatur, St. Louis, and to appropriate for campaigning to the cotton garment industry a fund of a quarter of a million dollars.

A request from Local 28, New York Ladies' Tailors and Custom Dressmakers, for recognition in a drive in the wholesale and private dressmaking branches of the trade, was referred to President Dubinsky for further action.

The Board received a request from a delegation of knit goods workers from New York and Philadelphia, who dwell upon the plight of the workers in the industry, a resolution for campaigning to the Brother Louis Nelson, manager of the New York Joint Council of Knit Goods Workers, declared that there was an evasiveness of work out of town for the purpose of avoiding competition because of non-union competition. Men's and boys' knitted sportswear and bathing suits, which occupy a key position in the knit goods industry, have been moved out of New York, intensifying the unemployment situation there.

President Dubinsky admitted that the labor situation in knit goods was more serious than in any other industry where the I. L. O. W. U. has jurisdiction. He said that with the abolition of the NRA, the local work week prevailing in the textile industry may spread in knit goods unless the Union acts to prevent it. The Philadelphia delegation stated that the disastrous conditions in the knit goods industry and a half ago has resulted in heavy wage cuts in the market and that wages there are practically one-half of the New York scales.

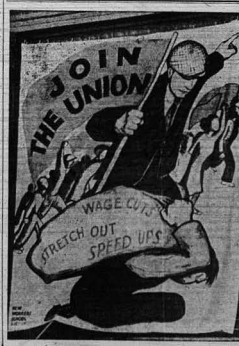
The G. E. B. endorsed the request of the Knit Goods Workers' Joint Council of New York for an organization drive in several out-of-town centers, including Boston and Philadelphia, and authorized the General Executive Board to make the necessary assistance.

The Board voted to raise \$10,000 toward the posthumated \$25,000 Memorial Fund in honor of Morris Hillquit, late controller for the local national. Of the \$10,000 to be raised, the General Office will contribute \$1,500 and \$1,500 will be raised among the locals.

The G. E. B. decided to elect a permanent legislative committee to look after and direct all legislative work of interest to the I. L. O. W. U., nationally and in the various States. The committee will consist of Vice-Presidents Nagler, Hochman, Antonin, Greenberg, Zimmerman and Executive Secretary Umhey. The Board also voted to instruct the committee to discontinue the work of the International in empowering President Dubinsky to organize it.

The G. E. B. debated the question of the proposed settlement of Jewish workers in Hialeah, N. J., where, it was reported, a New York cloak jobber was planning to open up a cloak factory for 150 workers. In view of the fact that the carrying out of this plan would deprive some New York cloakmakers of jobs, the Union has consistently op-

(Continued on Page 10)



## Militant Decisions Mark G. E. B. Meet

(Continued From Page 8)  
passed this scheme, and this policy was approved by the G. E. B.

It was voted to grant the request of Local 13 for organizing assistance in centers outside of New York.

The creation of a department for the Miscellaneous trades, including the underwear industry, for the purpose of extending organization in these fields, was voted by the G. E. B. The establishment of a Workmen's Compensation Bureau in connection with the Union Health Center was also approved.

The Board also acted favorably on the request of Montreal, where dress cutters are rapidly enrolling under the banner of the International, and empowered President Dubinsky to help in a campaign. The Board acted similarly on the request of the dressmakers of Toronto, referring the matter to the General Office. It was voted to request Vice-President Zimmerman to visit Montreal and Toronto in the interest of the dress campaign in the near future.

The request of the Wholesale Cloak and Suit Salesmen's Union, now a federal local of the American Federation of Labor, for direct affiliation with the I. L. G. W. U. was deferred until the next meeting of the General Executive Board.

Other important decisions are:

The G. E. B. voted to bring to a final settlement the remaining contention between Local 1, the cloak operators of New York, and Local 17, reformers, pertaining to dual control, by both locals, of some shops by adopting the following decision:

"Committee of three is to make all efforts to carry out the intent and purposes of the resolution of the Chicago Convention as soon as possible until this time has been carried out, the Committee is empowered, in the interim, to make such arrangements in the Joint Board as will lead to eliminate the dual control of the shops that produce adult garments."

A committee of three G. E. B. members, Joseph Breslaw, Louis Antonioli and Isidore Nagler, was named to act as final arbitrators in the event the committees of both locals encounter points which they cannot solve by mutual effort.

The G. E. B. also settled the jurisdiction problem involving control of cotton dresses in which the interested parties are the New York Joint Board, Local 25, House and Waist Makers' Union, and Local 91, the Children's Dressmakers' Union. In this case, the G. E. B. decided that President Dubinsky act as final arbitrator in instances where it should be found impossible for the involved groups to reach an understanding.

On the dress and cloak "interlocking" jurisdictional dispute, which consumed nearly a half day of the Board's time, a decision was adopted embodied in the following statement:

"At the expiration of the present agreement in the dress industry, the Union is to demand a provision in the new contracts to the effect that cloak and suit garments produced by dress manufacturers must be made under the prevailing standards in the cloak and suit industry."

Dress shops that work exclusively on cloak garments are to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Cloak Joint Board.

The Joint Board is pledged, in the event of a strike in the Cloak Industry, not to permit dress shops to work on cloak garments, in order not to interfere with the effectiveness of the strike.

The Cloak Joint Board shall submit to the Joint Board a list of shops that are known as dress shops but which, according to the prevailing standards, may come under the jurisdiction of the Cloak Joint Board for the purpose of offsetting estimates based on the prevailing standards in the cloak and suit industry.

The representatives of the dress shops agreed to add to the staff of their department competent persons to be designated by the Cloak Joint Board for the purpose of settling points in shops producing cloaks and in order to control the observance of these standards. Workers are to be instructed by the Joint Board that any pretensions to such standards must be made in accordance with arrangements heretofore set forth in order to conform with the rates prevailing in the cloak and suit industry. Workers are not to work on garments unless settled in accordance with these arrangements. Dress shops shall be controlled in cooperation with the Cloak Joint Board through representatives designated for this purpose.

Vice-Presidents Zimmerman and Meyer were appointed by the G. E. B. to represent the Dress and Cloak Joint Boards, respectively, and shall immediately proceed to make a survey of the industry under question, with the right to make such additional visits as they may deem necessary and advisable.

In the event of a dispute, the matter shall be submitted to President Dubinsky, whose decision must be complied with pending appeal to and disposition by the G. E. B. At the hearing of an appeal to the President, both Joint Boards shall be represented by one representative each.

It was also voted that the General Office permanently maintain at the expense of the I. L. G. W. U. five child inmates of the "Modern Sanitarium for Tubercular Patients," an institution located near Warsaw, Poland, and supported by Polish workers' organizations.

VII.  
In addition to transacting Union business, the meeting of the General Executive Board in Philadelphia was accompanied by several functions which stirred up a lot of interest in the Philadelphia local organization.

First, there was a mass meeting of 1,500 workers at the Broadwood Hotel, after work hours on Tuesday, May 21, which was addressed by President Dubinsky and Vice-Presidents Antonioli and Elias. The Vice-President Elias, Secretary of Philadelphia presiding. In a stirring speech, President Dubinsky declared at the meeting: "I serve notice on the Philadelphia organization in our industry that they must not increase hours or lower our wage scales. When agreements expire, whether in the cotton garment, the cloak or the dress industry, we shall make additional demands. Let the chambers beware, they will not get away with it. The Supreme Court may nullify the NRA and other proposed legislation, but there is one weapon they cannot nullify; that is, the workers' right to strike."

On Wednesday evening, the two Philadelphia joint boards, Cloak and Dress, jointly arranged a banquet in honor of the meeting of the G. E. B. at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. The banquet was attended by more than 600 members of the Philadelphia locals and was accompanied by a radio broadcast over Stations WVEB of New York and WFEN of Philadelphia by President Dubinsky.

Among those who responded to the dinner of the hostmaster, Vice-President George Robb, were Max Zaritsky, President of the International Cap and Millinery Workers' Union, who attended the banquet as a guest of the committee on arrangements; and Vice-President Louis Antonioli, Isidore Nagler and Julius Hochman. Vice-President Reisberg was chairman of the arrangements committee.

## Puerto Rico Labor Pleads for Temple

Aks U. S. Labor to Aid in Constructing National Labor Home on Island

The Executive Council of the Free Federation of Labor of Puerto Rico, forwarded, under the signature of Wm. D. Lopez, its vice president, a letter to President Dubinsky, appealing for "cooperation in its campaign for funds to build a Labor Temple, which would be the home of organized labor on the island."

Among other things, the communication says:

"The Labor Temple of Puerto Rico will be an everlasting monument to the memory and glory of our beloved leader, Samuel Gompers, who fought so courageously for the rights and freedom of our people."

"The site for the building is a lot of 1,600 square meters purchased from the Government of Puerto Rico and is situated in a beautiful spot on Ponce de Leon Avenue across Munira Rivera Park in Ponce de Aserra, within five minutes' ride from the famous sector of San Juan, the Capital City."

"\$50,000 is estimated to be the cost of the building and its equipment. Lack of employment and poor financial conditions of the island's labor unions made it very hard for us to cover alone the full amount within our ranks; therefore we are appealing to our brethren and comrades on the mainland and to the friends and sympathizers of the Organized Labor Movement in the island and abroad to help us in this campaign."

Under the leadership of the labor leaders, they will not get away with it. The Supreme Court may nullify the NRA and other proposed legislation, but there is one weapon they cannot nullify; that is, the workers' right to strike."

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## Summer Season Ends In Milwaukee Shops

By Salvatore Ninfo, V.P. General Organizer

Work on Summer lines in the Milwaukee shops has begun to slow down. The routine of the office is running regularly and the reports show that work is being equally divided.

Thus far, the Supreme Court's decision annulling the NRA has not encouraged any local manufacturer to drop work systems or to change any of the work standards. The membership of Local 183 and its leaders, strengthened by the decision of the General Executive Board, are nevertheless ready for the eventuality to defend their economic status.

Our Last

Dance

Local 183 had its May dance on May 29. We are using the income to establish a sick benefit fund for the members. The Modernistic Ballroom in the State Fair Park was jammed. About 3,000 people came to the affair regardless of the fact that the Federated Trades Council also had a dance on the same night and the Brookwood students gave a play. Most of the Milwaukee car salesmen had their groups at our dance. Our sister local from Racine also had a social present. It was by far the biggest festivity ever given by any local in the city. It is still the talk of the town and has left an impression that the I. L. G. W. U. is a labor organization that knows how to do things on a big scale.

Entertainment was provided by members of Local 183. Mary Beck, a silk operator, sang two solos; Johnie Kay, dressed as a military band leader, twirled a baton to the tune of a march and also tapped some New York "showery" dance numbers. Howard Bonser, a silk dress cutter, and Mrs. Bonser, his wife, did a few clever dances and tricks on roller skates. Rose Marie Connelley, a cotton dress operator, played two numbers on the xylophone. She dedicated the first number to President Dubinsky, the leader of the International, and the second to yours truly, in appreciation of what service I have rendered to the members of Local 183. The entertainers were received with tremendous applause by the crowd.

Local

Sports

Our baseball team played a third game on Sunday, June 2. Their opponents were the Progressive Club, a baseball club with six years experience. Our boys were shot out 4-0. The Milwaukee Journal, in its sports comments, said: "Although the Union team lost, it

played a wonderful game, and their endurance promises to make them formidable factors for the future." However, the boys are jubilant and are hopeful of making it even on another occasion.

Our tennis players are active every Saturday morning, and their ranks are gradually being filled. Last week, the executive board of Local 183 appointed a committee for outdoor sports. Brother Max Irlawsky is the chairman. This committee has already arranged tennis for Sundays, June 9 and 23, and a picnic for the members and their families on June 16.

Educational

Activities

Our educational director, Mrs. Molten Compere, is very busy at work. The public speaking and parliamentary class, although not very large, is very active. The dramatic class is busy rehearsing a play about Mother Jones, which will be given on June 23 for our members only.

Milwaukee, with the expected aid of the General Office, will soon become the pride of the Educational Committee of the General Executive Board. I, at least, believe so, and let us hope it will be so.

## Workers Share Benefits of Labor- Saving Device

Garnik & Ritter of Paterson, N. J., Agree to \$200 Weekly Increase

A new labor-saving automatic device, added to regular machines, has enabled the management of the Garnik & Ritter shop at Paterson, N. J., manufacturers of underwear, to produce more goods with out any increase in labor. Vice-President Harry Wandler, manager of the Out-of-Town Department, took the matter up with the firm, his contention being that the employer should not be the sole beneficiary of the new invention, but that the workers should share also in it. After some bargaining, the firm agreed to grant a \$1 increase per week to all the workers employed at such new machines.

"Nothing of this increase would have been granted," told Brother Wandler, "if the workers insisted that 'it' had not been the workers of the Union, which promptly took up and forced the issue with the management."

I. L. G. W. U. GIVES

SCHOLARSHIPS

The rich alumnae of Bryn Mawr may say away from the Summer School for Workers in Industry, but the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, in addition to extensive educational plans carried on under its own auspices (which cover more than 200 classes and several Training for Trade-Union Service institutions) has provided seven scholarships—three for the Wisconsin Summer School for Workers; two for the Western Summer School, Berkeley, California; two at the Southern Summer School, Little Switzerland, N. C.; and one for the School for Workers in Industry at Mt. Ivy, Pennsylvania.



Old and New Executive Board, Local 183, Milwaukee, Wis.

# Union Call To Arms Rouses Eastern "Out-of-Town" Locals

By S. Romaldi  
of "Justice" Staff

The demise of the NRA may have created a panicky feeling among such workers as have erroneously thought that since Uncle Sam was taking care of their minimum wages and maximum work hours, they had no need of "bothering" with a union; but it surely failed to create such an effect on our "NRA babies," the Eastern "out-of-town" dress locals, which—having by this time grown to full maturity—have had, perhaps, their first opportunity fully to realize, just on account of this NRA collapse, the vital necessity of their Union.

What two years of union activity and labor education have created in the minds of these new members—who only two years ago were working sweat-shop hours for starvation wages—can be thoroughly realized only by those who have been among them in the last few days.

As soon as the call to mobilize all forces was sent out by the General Executive Board from Philadelphia, the out-of-town locals lost no time in arranging a display of their strength. On instructions from Vice-President Harry Wander, manager of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, all the local managers at once got busy in summoning meetings to explain the line of action laid down by the G. E. B. and to instruct the workers as to their conduct in the shops.

## Dubinsky and Antonini Speak at Mount Vernon

The first of these meetings took place in Mount Vernon, N. Y., on Wednesday, June 5, at the Westchester Women's Club, 361 Crazy Avenue, right after work. Although it was only a section meeting of Local 145, more than 1,400 workers filled the auditorium, with hundreds standing in every available space.

President David Dubinsky and First Vice-President Luigi Antonini received a great ovation upon entering the hall.

President Dubinsky delivered a forceful speech, dealing with the Supreme Court decision and with the hope it has raised in the hearts of many chiselers. "A lot of people are now worried about the consequences this decision may bring about, but not we," he shouted, waving in the air the leaflet "L. G. W. U. Speaks" just out at press. "Here is our answer to those who dream of again bringing our industry down to the disgraceful conditions of the old days."

Brother Antonini followed in Italian, the majority of those present understood this language; with a detailed analysis of the social consequences of the NRA Supreme Court decision. "We are entering a period of fierce economic struggle," he said, "and these meetings should be regarded as a display of our strength, just as nations so often display their military force to warn possible enemies to be cautious before engaging in any attack. The houses may think we are weaker now, because with the abolition of the NRA we have lost our 'left arm.' But the Union represents our right arm, stronger than ever fully equipped with all the weapons needed to defeat the hopes of the reactionary forces of labor."

Others who spoke were Vice-President Harry Wander and August Claessens, the latter carrying the audience with his witticisms well balanced with effective trade-union propaganda. Louis Reiff, manager of the Mt. Vernon local, presided. Singing of labor songs was led by Samuel Friedman, who led to the meeting by the Educational Department. Local 145 will have other section meetings in York, New Rochelle, White, Flushing and Fortchester, N. Y., in the near future.

## Hochman and Giovannitti in New Haven

A demonstration of similar magnitude took place the following Monday, June 10, at the Moose Hall in New Haven, Connecticut, where about 2,000 dressmakers assembled to hear Vice-President Jack Hochman, manager of the New York Dressmakers' Joint Board, and Arturo Giovannitti, Italian labor poet and master in oratory, who brought the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Edward Shub, Connecticut State organizer for the I. L. G. W. U., presided. Other meetings arranged by Shub in other Connecticut localities took place Wednesday, June 12, in Hartford, at the Labor Temple, with Giovannitti as main speaker, and Thursday, June 6, in Bridgeport, where August Claessens spoke at 5 P. M. to the corset and brassiere workers and at 8 P. M. to the dressmakers. Joint meetings were held at 840 Main Avenue, and were presided over by Business Agent Brother Eisenstadt. A big mass-meeting was being arranged for the following week in Stamford, Conn. Long Island has also had its big demonstration. On Wednesday, June 12, an overflow audience assembled at 46-22 National Avenue, Corona, and was addressed by Brothers Jack Grossman, manager of our Long Island dressmakers' local, Frank Grosswald and S. Romaldi, visiting speakers from New York.

## New Jersey Never Legs

The New Jersey dress centers, which were only a short time ago the haven of the chiselers, lost no time in calling upon the workers to demonstrate their firm determination to keep what they have and to get ready for further rallies.

The first meeting took place in Passaic, where Frank Lefkowitz, manager of Local 145, addressed the audience both in English and in Italian.

Next came South River, where Manager Simon Baumrind called a mass-meeting on Wednesday, June

# Gifts To Local 25 Chairladies

In recognition of the splendid work accomplished by their chairladies and an appreciation of their loyalty and devotion, the workers of the following wait and blouse shops have presented gifts to their chairladies:

Rosedale Sportswear, 55 Liberty Avenue, Brooklyn, to Chairlady Millie Montefiore — a beautiful wrist watch.

Fashion Blouse, 2044-46th St., Long Island City, to Chairlady Gloria Mandell — a coffee table and percolator.

Williamsbridge Mills, 546 Stone Avenue, Brooklyn, to Chairlady Emma Ford — a set of fine glass ware.

Under the capable guidance of Business Agent Lefkowitz, of the Brooklyn district, the chairladies are striving to keep perfect control and to maintain unshaken standards in the above shops and they are making excellent progress.

# New York A. C. W. Board Gives \$2,500 To Anti-Nazi Chest

The New York Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America has contributed \$2,500 to the anti-Fascist fund which is being raised by the Chest for Liberation of Workers of Europe, Dr. Harry Lee Franklin, executive secretary of the organization, announced on June 4.

Executive Secretary Franklin pointed out that the action of the A. C. W. will stimulate contributions from other labor unions to the campaign. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union already has raised considerably more than \$50,000 toward this fund.

5, with workers overflowing the assembly hall, addressed by Samuel Lefkowitz, manager of the Jobbers' Department of the New York Cloth Joint Board, in Hungarian, and Brother Kirk, head of the Polish branch of the same Joint Board, in Polish.

The brassiere workers and the dressmakers of Bayonne, N. J., met on Friday, June 7, at the Workmen's Circle Labor Lyceum, with Henry Jaeger as guest speaker, while the Newark dressmakers had a big meeting on Monday, June 10, in the auditorium at 190 Belmont Avenue. Antonio Crivello, local manager, presided and spoke in Italian, while the main address in English was delivered by Henry Jaeger.

Turning out in unprecedented

# Workers' Cooperation—The Swedish Way

By David S. Schick

Economists and historians are in universal agreement that the development of organized labor in America betrays in its achievements and gains the same lag behind those of European workers as exists in the historical development of America and Europe.

In the field of cooperative purchasing, this time lag is particularly evident.

Wallace J. Campbell, an executive of the Cooperative League of the United States and a leader in the co-operative movement in this country, recently pointed to the accomplishments of Swedish co-operatives as a goal attainable in the United States by united action by labor as consumers.

"American workers," he declared, "placating their faith in the 'big stick' of anti-trust legislation, have seen a constant concentration of industry to the point where 200 corporations with 5,000 directors control more than 35% of the industrial business of the country."

"The Swedes, with a greater sense of realism, have concluded and broken the trusts by threat of government ownership or substitution of consumers' cooperatives."

## Without Anti-Trust Laws

Yet in the destruction of trust domination of Swedish industries, anti-trust legislation has been written on the statute books.

"Cooperativa," Forbunden, the Swedish Cooperative Union which has played a major role in these trust-busting activities, was organized in 1859. In the 35 years, it has grown to include 334,000 families, representing more than one-third of the country's population. During the depression 100,000 addi-

tional families joined co-operatives. Sales volume jumped from \$7,600,000 in 1912 to \$35,000,000 in 1931 and to \$51,000,000 in 1933. Today more than 40% of the wholesale and retail trade of the country is carried on by co-operatives.

"In 1904 a cooperative wholesale society was formed to supply member co-operatives without profit. Five years later the co-operatives stepped into the field of 'production for use' by breaking the European margarine monopoly."

"In answer to the milling trusts' exploitation of both farmers and consumers, the co-operatives in 1922 started a second factory and started grinding grain. Today the co-operatives are one of Sweden's largest mills. Bakeries followed. In 1925 K. F. bought a shoe factory. In 1927 it challenged and broke the rubber monopoly and is manufacturing for its members rubber soles, galoshes and auto tires. Galosh prices were cut 65% with no reduction in wages. By 1925, co-operatives were producing for their own use \$25,000,000 worth of manufactured articles annually."

## "Luma" Beats Light Comb

"The most dramatic battle has been with the electric light bulb monopoly, an affiliate of the American General Electric, which until co-operatives entered the field, charged consumers 37c each for 25-watt lamps. The co-operatives pooled their resources, built a bulb factory, forced private prices down to 22c and began marketing 'Luma' co-operative bulbs, guaranteed for 50 hours more than the privately produced bulb, for 20c. Today, the Luma bulb is sold in Finland, Norway, and Denmark have purchased interests in the project, and 'Luma' is now the first international cooperative factory."

The Stockholm Cooperative Society maintains 40 retail shops for the sale of clothing, provisions and household supplies. By eliminating profit in distribution the co-operatives have been able to pay prices 75% below competitive shops and, as a result, a patronage dividend of 3%, making a total saving to consumers of 3% on staple commodities. The Cooperative Union maintains its own architectural bureau with 50 full-time architects, and is maintaining the profit motive, co-operatives have been able to free themselves from the ugliness inherent in competitive civilization."

## Today a World Leader

"At least 15% of the population of Stockholm lives in co-operative houses. Electricity, produced by government-owned plants, is distributed through local consumers' cooperative associations. As a result, rural electrification in Sweden leads the world with three out of every four farm houses electrified."

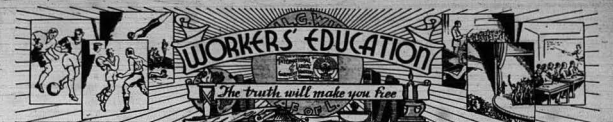
"Sweden is leading the world out of the depression, according to the economic section of the League of Nations. Its industrial level is the highest since 1920, and the number of unemployed has fallen to 1% of the working population. Since 1920, the budget has been balanced without the imposition of higher taxes and the national debt has been reduced to \$14,500,000. Only 145,000,000 was appropriated for unemployed relief in 1934 and half of that amount is still unspent."

"In halting these facts as an indication of impending world recovery, the press has merely overlooked the economic factors—retentive ownership, co-operative organization, monetary stabilization and labor organization—which have made Sweden's recovery possible."



Local 148, Hudson and Bergen Counties, N. J., installs Executive Board; Vice-President Harry Wander and William Altman, manager of Local, in Left Center; Catherine King, Chairlady of Executive Board, Front Row, 4th from Left.





By MARK STARR, Director Educational Department

## New Books for Workers

**THE THORNDIKE CENTURY JUNIOR DICTIONARY** (Dr. Appleton-Century Co. \$2.00) is the most entertaining book of its kind we have met for many a long day. None of our teachers or classes in English should miss it. It does an excellent job in breaking down words into simple meanings. For example, the usual dictionary tells us that a candle is "a cylinder of combustible substance inclosing a wick to furnish light." Compare Dr. R. L. Thorndike's explanation: "A stick of tallow or wax with a long end in it burned to give light. Wink on, before there was gas or electric light, people burned candles to see by."

Then, too, the example sentences and pictures are alive and human: "World peace is the cause she works for." "The Reds are communists, anarchists and extreme socialists." "The Christmas rush is hard for shopgirls." "That employer treats his workers." "His works his men long hours."

We note, however, that the worker's use of the word *scab* has not been included although *strike* is defined as "to stop work to get better pay, shorter hours, etc."

Instead of tracing the word to its ancient roots, Dr. Thorndike indicates by a simple numeral system the extent of its modern usage among over 10,000,000 checked words of reading matter. So if you do not know the special and absolute uses of a given word as written, say, by Shakespeare, you flip the frequency on the tips of Hank Haywood.

Both individual students and our study groups in English will find pleasure and profit in the 970 pages of this thumb-sized, illustrated, and attractively bound book which explains words.

## Forthcoming Events

**JUNE 15**  
10 A.M. Soft ball tryouts. Men and women. Alexander Hamilton Field.  
1 P.M. Baseball double-header. Local 136 vs. Local 601. Local 102 vs. Local 142. Springfield Park.

**JUNE 16**  
3:30 A.M. Hike. Leader: Jack Barbash, equipped with games, song sheets and sunshine; take 1, R. T. Seventh Ave. Subway for Dyckman St. Station meeting place.

**JUNE 22**  
10 A.M. Soft ball tryouts. Men and women. Springfield Park.  
12 Noon. Baseball double-header. Local 142 vs. 60; Local 102 vs. Local 40; at Springfield Park.

**JUNE 25**  
9:30 A.M. Hike. Dyckman St. Station as above.

**JUNE 29**  
10 A.M. Soft ball tryouts. Men and women. Springfield Park.  
12 Noon. Baseball double-header. Local 40 vs. Local 142; Local 10 vs. Dyckman Joint Board. Springfield Park.

Are you interested in getting on labor plays? A very useful hand-book is "Dramatics for Amateur Groups" published by the Agricultural Extension Service, Wisconsin University, Madison, Wisconsin, for 5c. In 8 pages it gives practical suggestions about make-up and costume, lighting and scenery, rehearsal, acting, etc. Directions for making scenery and equipment are in some instances supplemented by drawings. While intended primarily for rural groups, most of the material is adaptable to labor drama.

Those who know Katherine Polak's palmtalking *John in Your Job* and *Your Pay* will be very glad that she has revised her mimeographed material on the shorter workweek and that it has now been published by Affiliated Schools as *Can the Work-Week Shrink and Wages Grow?* (12c) Lots of easily understood figures and arguments for the thirty-hour week. Ideal for an elementary class.

Then the Affiliated Schools have also published *An Introduction to American Trade Unionism* (12c) by Elsie Gluck. In a printed pamphlet of 160 pages Miss Gluck has given a survey of trade unionism in the United States. The book begins with a bird's-eye view of the present situation, introduces some of the factors influencing the development of American trade unionism, and then discusses ways in which certain industries such as coal, clothing and textiles have attempted to meet their organization problems. The pamphlet ends with a discussion of the problems arising out of the present-day movements. There are thought-provoking questions and references for further reading on subjects mentioned but not discussed in the pamphlet. Miss Gluck is the author of *John Mitchell, Miner*, has had intimate experience with trade unionism as an organizer and educator with the I. L. G. W. U. and other unions.

If there had been a real Labor Press in the United States we should have heard less from British about George Windsor, and the recent jubilee of his reign, and more about George Loveless, one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs of 1834.

In 1934 the British Trades Union Congress commemorated the centenary of the industrial terrorism which transported six farm laborers to Botany Bay for the crime of being members of a trade union. Now a pictorial record of over 70 pages has been made of all the incidents which led to the liberation of these dauntless union pioneers. This has charts and maps that talk, and gives invaluable insight into the past and present of British labor. We can supply copies of the pictorial souvenir for 50c. A larger bound volume suitable for libraries, *The Martyrs of Tolpuddle*, is also published by the British Trades Union Congress, for \$1.60. Copies can be seen at the Educational Department.

Sister Gittens Thanks  
I. L. G. W. U. For  
Unity Institute

The Editor,  
"Justice,"  
3 West 16th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:  
Permit me, through the columns of "Justice," to express my deep appreciation of the fine, wholesome and helpful training I received during the recent Institute held under the auspices of the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. at Unity House from May 25 to May 28.

Words truly cannot describe the natural beauty of the clustered spot upon which Unity House is majestically raising its head. I only wish every member of the International could take advantage of the opportunity which Unity House offers to get a deeper and better impression of the significance of our Union in the life of garment workers. I wish also that each member from every shop could have attended that Institute and there get an enlightening glimpse of the historical background and meaning of the trade union movement, in general, and of our International, in particular. It is my opinion that if every member of the International could visit Unity House they would return to their respective shops and local union with a keener sense of realization of what a union may mean to a worker.

I also want to thank the teachers who returned to us at the Institute for the patience and care they displayed. Their talks were not only enlightening and lucid but also invigorating and inspiring. I shall always feel greatly indebted to them for so generously contributing to my awakened sense of class consciousness and solidarity.

Fraternally yours,  
WINIFRED GITTENS,  
Executive Board Member,  
Local 25.

## "Instituting" at Unity

Tractors levelling out the grounds and roadways, and raising dust clouds on the parched earth. Plasterers, painters, carpenters, rushing to make Unity House ready for the scheduled date of opening. Yet the classes of our Training-for-Trade-Union-Service went on happily with 65 students anxious to use every precious moment of that 5-day Sabbath provided by their locals and the Educational Department. While hundreds of thousands of I. L. G. W. U. members will see Unity in its full glory this Summer, our institute members can always feel they were in at the making of our Union's enlarged and renovated Summer home.

We put the names of the members into the record so that the participants themselves can be questioned by their fellow members about their experiences.

Local 1, L. Cohen, A. Nagelshtern, S. Reenick, P. Kaufman, H. Freeman; Local 144, Helen Hazard; Local 184, Frank Vinsell; Rose Hoffman; Local 25, Oscar Stern, Hyman Discont; Local 243, Anthony Riccardi; Local 102, Nat Wallace, Harry Friedman; Local 91, Max Heller, Benjie Weiss, Olive Pearlman; Local 190, Tom Scott; Yona Finkelshten; Local 22, Meyer

using to my awakened sense of class consciousness and solidarity.

Fraternally yours,  
WINIFRED GITTENS,  
Executive Board Member,  
Local 25.

Ballewitz, David Altman, Joseph Orth-Vallies, Lillian Wainwright, Helen Schaffer, Jennie Ballewitz, Millicent Hinde, Hortense Galt, Minnie Lurie, Nease Bruckler, Rose Zorn, Jennie Silverman, Anna Green, Sylvia Saunders, Anna Tishman, Local 10, Lena Breslav; Local 145, Tony Bogdanoff, Helen Seiler; Philadelphia Joint Board, Isidor Goldberg, Ben Smith, Clara Weis, Ida Morin, Mary Beckman; Local 25, Bertha Bookspan, Winifred Gittens; Local 146, Nancy Pollack, Lillian Younger; Local 149, Minnie Triano, Helen Sikko, Local 32, Anna Barion, Shirley Sprague; Local 77, Rose Padalino, Rose Vitall, Joseph Palmitino; Local 87, Minnie Wohl; Local 144, Ruelle Reese; Local 151, Nellie Dwyer; Local 192, Tessie Cassel; Local 62, Doris Richer, Shirley Barham.

Before the students dispersed they by resolution expressed their thanks: (1) to the management and staff who so well attended to the physical comforts of their guests; (2) to the faculty and visiting speakers (with a special appreciation for Frank Crosswath's closing address, "The Negro and the American Labor Movement"); (3) to the Educational Department for organizing the Institute. Like Oliver Twist, our members wanted more more institutes so that their fellow members can also share in this method of learn-while-you-play. We are glad to see Philadelphia represented in the family and also Locals 1 and 25, in addition to those represented at the Brookwood Institute.

Banbury and pinocchio claimed a few victims but in the main the students underwent the heavy class schedule successfully. The decision of the Supreme Court made history just at the time when the NIRA was on the dissection table in Dr. Seidman's classes. Hence, the students were able to get much valuable insight into the powers of the Supreme Court, the scope of interstate commerce, the hurdles over which the Wagner Bill will have to jump, etc. In the economics class under Dr. Taylor, the 30-hour week was the chief object of attention; and Miss Jarvis made parliamentary law a lively and fascinating aid to better class meetings.

Thanks are due to visiting lecturers, Pauline Newman, Samuel Shore and Frank Crosswath and also to the Dreamers' Joint Board and Local 89, respectively, for procuring copies of "75,000 Strides" and the 15th Anniversary Book.

Instead of running a central institute in which the members have to come to meet the teachers, we are going to try to run also district institutes and conferences and take the teachers to a given locality to speak to groups of members. We have in mind the blousing of lectures and talks, with music, song and labor dramas and we shall be writing books giving them details of where they will be held. At the moment we have centers in Connecticut and New Jersey in mind. Stand by for details and help us by acting at once when your local gets the information.



"Too Old"—Nightmare Begins At Forty

# What Will Happen To The Garment Label?

By Edith Kine

Since the voiding of the NRA by the Supreme Court, the question of "what will happen to the label" has been paramount in the minds of consumer and trade union groups. It seemed, at the time of the decision, that the label with the other provisions of the codes would pass into obscurity. But the growing protests and the increasing consciousness of the consumer to the necessity of a garment label to replace the NRA insignia has resulted in some action to insure its continuance.

The label on men's and women's apparel was one of the most important manifestations of the NRA. It was the symbol that showed that the garment was made under sanitary conditions, and by workers who were employed at reasonable scales and fair work hours. The label served as a means of control for both industry and labor. Employers who did not observe fair trade practices, who cheated on wages or employed children, lost the right to use the label and thus their right meant quite frequently boycotting of these garments.

## Union First To Take Action

With the NRA extinct only in an emasculated form, with code authorities disbanded, the union movement stepped in to run its affairs without "government interference." Already reports indicate that many manufacturers have lengthened hours and cut wages. The union movement is strong, concerted action by both consumers and workers (who are really one and the same), attempts to bring back the sweatshops in all its implications may break out all along the garment front.

As far as the women's apparel industry is concerned, the Union industry has been first to take action in this direction. Shop chairmen have been notified by the Coast Joint Board not to work on garments not bearing the code labels to attach. The Union is threatening to stop work unless this order is upheld, which indicates clearly that the workers' organization regards the label as one of the most powerful of control of work conditions weapons ever adopted in this industry.

## "Consumers Label-Conscious," Says Nagler

According to Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Cloth Joint Board, the Union insists on the maintenance of the label as a badge of labor standards, and to continue its use in an effort to prevent the breakdown of three standards. "The workers are proceeding on the theory that the label represents, not only to themselves, but to the consumer as well, decent legitimate standards, and they refuse to work without it. Consumers throughout the country have become label-conscious, and they insist that retailers cooperate to the extent of boycott, if necessary."

A majority of the extreme associations have pledged themselves to continuous observation of code requirements voluntarily. The National Coat and Suit Recovery Board, the organization planned to take the place of the defunct Coast Joint Code Authority, is not only pledged to maintain hours, wages, and fair trade practices, but also the use of a label to identify merchandise made under recovery

standards. The Clothing Manufacturers' Association has also proposed that the members continue complying with the principal provisions of the Clothing Code and also agree to use a new label to indicate their adherence to a stabilized market.

## Bits of Label History

The label, as a union instrument, is not novel to the garment industry. At least 5 union labels are now in use, including the printers', bakers', cleaners', cabinet-makers', etc. The oldest label in the garment trades is that of men's clothing distributed by the United Garment Workers. This label is probably the most significant of all as the United Garment Workers control the men's work clothes industry almost exclusively.

The I. L. G. W. U., however, from its earliest days, strove to build up its organization on trade union force rather than on label publicity, although its early program revolved in a label and acquired one as early as 1905. The promotion of the label in the women's garment trades, however, made no headway. Sporadically there would be a demand on the part of some leaders for label promotion as a means of strengthening organizational position, but that soon died.

## The "Prosnan" in 1924-25

In the early Twenties, after the rapid spread of the jobber-contractor system of production began to demoralize the coat and suit business and to weaken union control of labor standards, the idea of a label, but a label to be sponsored

by industry as a badge of certain standards, began to spread. The label was to be used as a check upon unscrupulous jobbers and producers. Early in 1925, this proposal took shape in a Label Division attached to the impartial chairman's office, and Dr. Henry Moskowitz was appointed label director. The label division decided on the name "Prosnan" (or health) and installed a machinery for distribution. The label encountered a lot of opposition, as might have been expected—yet made considerable headway. The retailers, however, refused to give it support but the Union persisted for over a year in going ahead with the label. It is difficult to say whether in the long run the Prosnan label would have overcome the great odds against it and survived. As it happened the internal turmoil which occurred

in the Union at that time distracted the label and although it was extended during that year to the dress industry as well, it died towards the end of 1925.

## The NRA Label Arrives

The next movement for a "label of standard" in the women's wear trades, strangely enough, had preceded by a few weeks the New Deal. It was shortly after the election of Roosevelt, when a half dozen women's organizations, stirred by the newspaper and magazine accounts of the flourishing of sweatshops throughout the metropolitan district and in nearby New York and Connecticut towns, got together at a meeting at Nurses' Settlement Clubhouse on Park Avenue and launched a movement for a "white label" for women's apparel (that would distinguish it from sweatshop or sub-standard made garments).

The launching of the NRA and the action during the Summer of 1932 logically made for the adoption of a label that would stamp garments in all trades as code-made. The Union industry is now active in inserting the label into the code, and the obligation put on the retailers through their code made the sailing for the label very smooth.

These millions of labels were an education to the great American consuming public. A rough estimate places the number of coats made since October, 1932, at 35 million, and of the dress labels at 120 million. Women who know nothing of the label gradually began to recognize it and place value on it. At the end of this last season, that nearly 95% of all garments produced in the country have some sort of an NRA label.

## Safeguard and Insurance

The extent of the importance of the NRA label could be judged by the extent to which the withdrawal of the label would bring the most hard-headed offenders in the garment industry to terms.

It is obvious that neither the Union nor the legitimate manufacturer can give up the label now. The Union needs the label as an effective safeguard against the chattering elements who might attempt to lengthen hours or lower wages and standards in the smaller cities where the union's control is not as complete as in the larger markets. To the legitimate manufacturer, the label is as necessary as an insurance against a threat competition from either non-union production sources or from irresponsible chiselers who frequently have used the label to display but never fail to violate standards when an opportunity is at hand.

Clearly the problem of the label's future in the garment industry shapes itself up along the following line: Given the support of the unions and the employers' associations—to what extent will these two powerful factors in the apparel-producing industry be able to tie up the retailers on the label and obtain their cooperation? And should they fail to gain the cooperation of the retailers, what steps do they propose to take—through utilizing and publicizing the volume of label good will accumulated over the NRA period—through other measures to compel the retailers the country over, to fall in line or, at least, to offer no opposition to the garment label?

A realistic answer to the label will probably determine the fate of the garment fair-standard label.

## Health Center News

By Pauline M. Newman

### "Health and the Workers"

This was the topic we discussed with the members of the I. L. G. W. U. Institute held recently at Daily House. In the course of my talk I told them how and why the Union Health Center came to be. I think our new members should know that their International is interested not only in raising their wages and decreasing hours, but that it is also interested in affording them the opportunity of getting them the appropriate of getting adequate and decent medical care. They were tremendously interested in the conditions which caused the establishment of the Union Health Center. From the questions asked and the discussion in general it was evident that our members are getting to be "health-conscious." In fact, they wanted to know when the I. L. G. W. U. was going to organize union health centers in other cities. The Philadelphia girls, for example, did not see any reason why they can't have their "right away." "Because," they said, "we are so near New York you might almost run it for us!"

May I again extend our thanks to Mark Starr for giving the Union Health Center for giving the educational program?

### From Our Social Service Folder

Again we look at our notes in this folder, and again we are pained by a feeling of helplessness. Members of our various locals come to us with confidence and expecta-

tions. Some of them think that all they have to do is to let us know that they want a rest, for instance, and that by my pressing a button a car would appear at the door and take them to a desirable place where they would relax and be at peace with themselves and the world.

The idea that there are such places where one can be soothed without cost to the member of the Union is prevalent among our people. "According to them, all one has to do is to have a doctor's signature and all doors of comfortable homes will open to them. As a matter of fact, there are some places where one may be admitted to only when sent by a hospital. Others will accept patients upon a weekly payment. Still others will take only certain cases—in short, the idea that there are free resting places or free hospital service for the vast majority of our people is all wrong. It is practically non-existent.

To illustrate: A member from one of the locals suffers from hay fever. He is in rather severe case. He came to me and told me his usual story. He has had only three weeks' work this season. Has not a cent to his name with which to pay for the treatment. Can't I help him? After I explained to him that someone—either the Union or the patient must pay for treatments here, because our doctors and nurses are paid for their services, I suggested that he go to a hospital in his neighborhood. He did and came back to tell me that the Social Service Department of

that hospital insisted upon his paying fifteen dollars for the series of treatments! A bargain with humiliation!

### "I Need to Go Away"

"Miss Newman, please help me, I must go away, I need a rest, and I want you to tell my local to send me away on a farm for three weeks. I need to go—." Wait a minute. Brother H., you will have to be examined by our doctor before we recommend sick benefit. If you are sick you will surely get it from your Union. (This at the top of his voice) "I am not sick, I don't need a doctor, I need a vacation. I paid plenty of money to the Union, the Union has money, why can't they send me away?" Try as I may to explain that the Sick Benefit Fund of his local does not include vacations for the membership, he was convinced that he should be sent away. Maybe I should—but not on a vacation! . . .

### To Move, or Not to Move

To move or not to move—that is now the question before the Committee on the Health Center. In principle, most members agree that the Union Health Center has outgrown its present quarters. The G. E. B. No. 10, we believe, has accepted the report of its Committee which advised moving the institution into a large place. However, action by the Committee was postponed for another month or so under the circumstances, there is no action by the Committee until further developments before final action is taken.

More about the question of moving will appear in an early issue of "Justice."



A Bunch of True-Blue Sluggers—The Batmen of Local 60—  
Bench-Warmers in the Front Row: Max Cohen, Jack Hochman, I. Westphaly.



# Among the Cutters of New York

By Samuel Perlmutter, V.P.  
Manager, Local 10

## Cutters on Post

The two years of hard-fought campaigns by the I.L.G.W.U., in every market, have produced results that few other labor organizations in the country may equal. From an organization of 40,000 members in 1933, the International, with the advent of the NRA, made rapid strides and has grown to its present size, having taken into its fold the hundreds of thousands of workers employed in the ladies' garment industry.

By this time, we believe, almost every worker who possesses a normal degree of intelligence is fully convinced that while there could be no question as to the great opportunity to the great majority of the Union to organize the workers, the gain secured by our workers during this short space of time would have been utterly impossible without the creation of a strong trade union.

And now that the NRA is annulled through the decision of the Supreme Court, the question of the preservation of these gains looms up as a vital concern to the millions of workers depending upon the ladies' garment industry for a livelihood.

## Workers Must Become Union-Conscious

This question must be answered by the workers in very clear and unequivocal terms. Their answer must be greater support and loyalty towards their organization, nationally and locally, alike. We must maintain the NRA, and we must endeavor to counteract any attempt by employers, collectively or individually, to determine the conditions we have obtained after years of struggle and sacrifice. We must realize that not only will we keep the code conditions intact, but we must be ready to fight on for still greater improvements. We must further endeavor to organize ourselves into vigilant and picket committees and such other activities as we will be called upon by our Union to perform.

The skeptical prophecy agreed upon by some, that the workers without the NRA would become indifferent to their unions, is groundless. On the contrary, in view of the abolition of the NRA, whether it be temporary or permanent, we should redouble our energies and apply ourselves with greater vigor for the struggle ahead of us.

## Joint Boards and Local Calling Mobilization Meetings

Immediately after the decision of the Supreme Court became known, the General Executive Board of the International, at its session in Philadelphia, proceeded to send, aside substantial funds to go ahead with

## Vice-Pres. Bialis on Illinois Employment Service Advisory Group

Governor Horner, of Illinois, has appointed Vice-President Morris Bialis, manager of the Chicago Joint Board of the I.L.G.W.U., member of the labor advisory group to the Illinois State Employment Service. The function of the Service is to develop an efficient system of public employment offices, from which

strikes against any firm that might attempt to reduce wages or destroy any other work conditions. President David Dubinsky was also authorized by the General Executive Board to communicate with Brother Wm. Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, to call conferences of representatives of labor to take action for safeguarding the interests of the workers.

Two large shop chairman meetings, one in Manhattan Opera House and the other at Beethoven Hall, have already taken place this week in our organization in New York and were addressed by President David Dubinsky, Mildred Nacir, general manager of the Cloak Joint Board, and by Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dressmakers' Joint Board.

## Local 10 Plans Renewed Campaign

In order to effect a greater control of conditions throughout the ladies' garment industry in and around New York, especially in the cutting departments, the following plans have been decided upon to become operative immediately:

1.) To approve the decision of the Joint Boards to impose a minimum fine of \$50 upon anyone who will violate the 35-hour week either by working after 4:30 P. M. in the cloak shops or 4:00 P. M. in the dress shops.

Upon second conviction, member is to become subject to withdrawal of working card or expulsion from Union.

2.) That an organization drive for the purpose of controlling the 35-hour week be renewed with greater force and vigor.

In order to make this possible, every cutter, when called upon by communication to report for Saturday patrol duty, must respond without fail unless for good cause. Anyone failing to do so may be summoned before the Executive Board

where he must give account for his action or lack of action.

3.) Shop chairmen and building committees are to stimulate this work under the supervision of Brother Harry Wachs in charge of the organization department of Local 10.

4.) The chairmen and building committees who will be assigned to their respective posts are to check all those who do not carry out their work completely in accordance with the instructions given to them by the instructions department.

5.) Cutters are to report to the office immediately any attempt of employers to reduce wages or make demands from the cutters from conditions inferior to those that prevailed up to date.

Such information will be kept in strict confidence and cutters will receive all the protection of the Union in the event of any discrimination.

## Cutters Warned Against Temporary Jobs

Among the current problems we are confronted with is, first, the question of temporary jobs; second, the conditions under which these jobs are often accepted by our members.

The question of temporary jobs has been discussed time and again in "Justice," as well as at membership meetings.

The writer has always pointed to the fact that the Union has made its position very clear and definite in its collective and individual agreements that "any worker employed in a shop for a period of one or two weeks, depending upon the trade in which he is employed and the specifications set forth in the particular agreements, is entitled to the job," so that there can be no room for anyone, demagogue or

otherwise, to create issues among the workers on this subject.

The question, therefore, is: Is there such a thing as temporary jobs? A recent examination of facts revealed that the number of cutters who hold temporary jobs in the past six months was comparatively insignificant, barely 1% of all our members. Wherever men work on temporary jobs it is because of one or two reasons: At certain peak periods during the season, a firm may call the office of Local 10 and request a man for a week or so either because of lack of space on their regular premises or for some other reason. In such cases the office may agree to such an arrangement; or, a foreman or a "friend of the firm" might innocently approach a cutter and enter into temporary arrangements with him without the knowledge of the Union.

## A Firm That Wanted to "Get Even"

While on this subject, it would be of interest to mention cases where employers themselves are rather inclined to put an additional man so that their regular staff would be forced to share work and thus be deprived of a full week's work. As, for instance, in the case of the Creative Dress.

This firm was compelled to remit back pay to its cutters. Suspecting this complaint had been made by the cutters, the firm told them they would "get even" with them and shortly thereafter engaged additional cutters, although it never before employed more than three cutters.

It was unfortunate that one of the men who was engaged by the firm was taken off another job. This matter was, therefore, referred to the executive board which decided to make a thorough investigation of the case from all angles.

From the above it can clearly be seen that, while the question of temporary jobs is not nearly as alarming as some try to magnify it, definite action must be taken against foremen or others who resort to such practices. The executive board will, therefore, give it due consideration, having in mind the following: 1) that no official of the Union is to allow any of its members temporary jobs unless there is an emergency situation which warrants such approval; 2) that any foreman or cutter engaging or agreeing to accept a job on a temporary basis is to be summoned before the executive board and disciplinary action taken.

## Firm Pays \$800 Fine and Back Pay

The Sportcraft Dress, 455 7th Ave., in another case, typifies the character of some of our cheating employers.

In this case, for some time the

## ATTENTION!

Members of Local 10

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

will be held on

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1935

at

ARLINGTON HALL

25 St. Mark's Place

at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

All cutters are urged to attend without fail.

Union had suspected that conditions in this shop were not according to "History" and that the firm employed seven cutters in all, two cutters, Ernest Buchholz and Joe Imhorst, were working two and three days per week while the balance of the cutters were working full weeks. After a thorough investigation, it was finally discovered that Cutters Ed. Mullin, Joe. Cziganski and Frank Benafato, Jr., were working on piece-work while Cutters Buchholz, Imhorst, Irving Mann and Frank Benafato, Jr., were employed by the week. Moreover, those employed by the week were being paid out by the piece workers so that the latter earned during certain periods much above the scales, up to \$50 per week, while those working by the week earned \$40 less when they worked a full week.

When Brothers Morris Alvord and Max Goldstein, who participated in the investigation, brought this information to the attention of the Executive Board, it decided to demand a fine for the violation of the agreement and to collect back pay, with the result that the firm remitted \$400.

## Boat Chartered For Excursion

Our baseball games are being attended on Saturdays by many of the cutters and it was decided to root for their team. In addition to this, the Union has decided to provide entertainment to other members who are not athletically inclined, and to give them the best of Local 10, in conjunction with the Bloomsdaken's Union, Local 25, and Corbett and Brasserie Union, Local 23, has chartered the Hudson River Bay Line boat, Benjamin F. Odell, for an excursion to Indian Point on Saturday, August 17. This boat can easily accommodate 2,500 people. The girls of Local 25, are to lead, and are invited for those tickets. Entertainment and dancing are arranged to take place on the boat, and baseball, soccer and swimming, also dancing, will be had at Indian Point.

The following are on the arrangements committee: Irving Kirschner, Morris Wollinsky, Morris Rubinsky, Alast. Dave Meyers and Irving Goodman. Tickets can be obtained in the office of Local 10.

# Dress Patternmakers Rally at Big Meeting

By Morris Schwartzstein  
Manager, Local 31

Things are humming around the offices of the newly chartered Dress Patternmakers' Union, Local 31. The membership drive conducted by the patternmakers has been very successful as they have doubled their membership in the four months since they became affiliated with the I.L.G.W.U.

In line with plans of organization activity, Local 31 held a mass meeting on Tuesday evening, June 4, at the Hotel Delano. Invitations to the meeting were extended to all dress patternmakers in the City of New York.

Among the speakers who addressed the meeting were Mr. Nor-

man Thomas, who brought the message of the workers of hand and brain to unite.

Hon. Judge Jacob Finken spoke on the NRA and advised the workers to depend only on themselves by being organized and united.

Bro. Ed. Pollock told a story of previous struggles of workers in the early days of the I.L.G.W.U. and strongly urged solidarity and unity of purpose.

Local 31 has recently handled several cases where patternmakers were unjustly discharged. The results were quite satisfactory, as some of the patternmakers were reinstated and settlements satisfactory both to worker and the Union were made.

Local 31 maintains an office in 510 Seventh Avenue, Room 1507.



Judge Finken Thrilled Members of Local 31 by Ferment Appeal for Labor Unity

# ...Cutters' Sport News...

By Joseph Neiro  
Athletic Dept.

## Cutters' Triumph Again

Local 10 maintained its league leadership with the Dress Joint Board by winning Local 40 with a score of 16-2.

For three leagues the Boldskins' Union team looked as though they were going to make us fight for a victory. At the start of the season, our boys began to solve the opposing burlers' delivery and began mounting the score.

## Outside Competition

The cutters did not have to extend themselves so far and are looking outside games. As this column goes to press, Local 10 is planning to engage in three games one league game and two outside competition games.

The first big test in league competition will be staged on Saturday, June 22, at Springfield, Connecticut, against none other than the Dress Joint Board. This contest will most likely be a battle to retain first place. Anyone who wants to see a thrilling encounter between two top-notch teams should not fail to come to this game.

# ...EDITORIAL NOTES...

## "The Old Order Shall Not Come Back!"

The ink had hardly dried up on the ringing message forwarded by the General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U., from its meeting place in Philadelphia to the entire membership of the Union, dealing with the extraordinary situation growing out of the legal invalidation of the NRA, as reports began pouring into the General Office of a veritable wave of mass meetings in a number of cities, of demonstrations under way in other places, all imbued with one purpose, with one single aim—to mobilize the full strength of the Union in defense of our established work standards in every market.

Within less than a week, meetings attended by tens of thousands of workers already have been held in a score of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania cities. Similar large-scale gatherings are being spontaneously organized in the Middle and Far West. The annulment of the NRA by the Supreme Court has cast upon the shoulders of the I. L. G. W. U. the full brunt of preserving the work conditions formerly guaranteed by the codes in our industry. This court decision, undoubtedly, will tend to encourage some employers to sabotage union conditions and to revert to the "good old" sweatshop days. The Union is thus faced with the huge task of policing single-handed work conditions in the industry and the Union is determined to prove equal to this task.

As we write these lines, it is still difficult to obtain a composite picture of violations, as yet sporadic, by employers in our industry of the wage minimums and the work-hour maximums since the NRA was destroyed on May 27. Thus far, as the reports already at hand show, these violations have occurred almost exclusively in non-union cotton garment and knit goods shops. It is to be expected, however, that this epidemic of chiseling will spread to the union areas as well.

Against all such attempts, the I. L. G. W. U. will present a stone wall of defense. Moreover, the leadership of the International still believes in the old maxim that a good offense is the best defense. The Union will redouble its efforts, in the cotton garment field and in the other less protected industries, to complete the work begun before the NRA was struck down. Despite adverse court decisions, the invaluable gains which we have won for our members and for all workers in every branch of the women's garment industry will be protected at all cost.

## The Cloak Shop Chairmen Resolve

The New York cloak chairmen, thirteen hundred strong, met ten days ago on a sweltering afternoon for a double purpose—to tell the world how they felt concerning the sudden scuttling of the NRA by the Supreme Court, and to tell their own employers to keep hands off their hard-earned work terms in the coat and suit factories.

It was, by a long count, the most harmonious and businesslike gathering of sturdy union veterans, every man and woman of them, this writer had ever been privileged to watch at close range. The speeches of President Dubinsky, General Manager Nagler, Vice-Presidents Levy and Breslaw, applauded to the echo, sounded solid, constructive keynotes which bore

irrefutable evidence that the cloakmakers, on the eve of what might become one of the greatest conflicts in the history of their Union, are confident of their strength and are ready to give their bones all the fight the latter might desire.

NRA or no NRA, the meeting of the cloak shop chairmen decided, "the workers in the shops are to abide strictly by the standards that existed under the expired agreements." Contract or no contract, "any worker found violating work terms will be severely punished, and any employer who may attempt, by coercion or collusion, to undermine any of the work standards" will be made to feel the full weight of the Union's arm. This is the sort of language employers, as a rule, pay heed to. The thirteen hundred shop chairmen know it.

## Unity Opens For 1935

On the 21st of June, Unity House, the marvel home of the I. L. G. W. U. in the Pocono Hills of Pennsylvania, will open its gates for the fifteenth season.

We should like to be frank about it: Our Unity House needs no publicizing for "Justice" readers. Not all of them may have been to Unity House but, we are quite sure, all of them, with the possible exception of the very latest newcomers into the I. L. G. W. U., have heard about the glories of our great vacation resort and its inexhaustible facilities of health-giving joy and restful recreation.

Yet, even veteran Unity guests have a wonderful surprise for them this approaching season. For out of the ashes of last year's fire, there has arisen on the Unity grounds an even more magnificent place, equipped to accommodate on a bigger and better scale greater crowds and to afford them more diversified fun and comfort.

Unity House, there seems to be no doubt about it, will have this year a successful season, probably the most successful in its history. Its greatest success, however, would be, if it should be able to record that this season the overwhelming majority of its visitors were members of the I. L. G. W. U. All signs point in this direction—already last year a majority of the guests were Union members.

Hail the new Unity season! Hail our marvelous Unity House!

## The Festival At The Hippodrome

The spectacle of I. L. G. W. U.-bred and nurtured "music, drama, dance and sports," on Sunday afternoon, June 9, at the New York Hippodrome, should convince even the habitual scoffers in our midst that the educational and recreational work of the Union has taken an astonishing leap forward in less than a year, since the Chicago convention.

It was difficult, indeed, to suppress a gasp of admiration as this rehearsal de luxe at the Hippodrome began unfolding, group by group—all of them composed of shop workers and representing a typical cross section of the I. L. G. W. U.—the full sweep of our recreational work. It must be further observed that only a few of our art groups were able to make an appearance on that afternoon. There could not have been room for all of them even on that huge platform, and, besides, not all the clubs, some of them but recently formed, were stage-ready, so to say. Still

further—the recreational groups are but a part of the general educational program of the Union. We have scores of instruction classes, which are attended by thousands of members in every garment city in the country.

In brief: We are building a huge cultural network which is becoming more and more of vital interest to thousands upon thousands of our members. It is a feature of our trade union work of which we are especially proud. The spade work in labor education, which our pioneers had invested in a soil regarded by many as sterile, is beginning to show bloom.

## The "Recovery Board" in The Cloak Industry

The new agency formed in the cloak industry—within a week of the demise of the NRA—the National Coat and Suit Recovery Board, "to maintain fair trade practices and, wage and hour provisions" illustrates more clearly than anything else that the coat and suit trade has become cemented an organized industry and that all legitimate factors within it realize that without self-government, in which labor is fully represented, this industry cannot run on.

According to plans, the governing board of the new agency will have representatives of the consuming public and it is intended, if possible, to get the Departments of Commerce and Labor to take part in it. Among the details of the plan are an adequate enforcement machinery, continuance of statistical work begun under the code authority, the use of a label to identify merchandise made under "recovery standards," and the distribution of voting power on the board approximately along the lines in which the various markets and zones were represented in the code authority.

It is still too early, of course, to predict success or failure for this new outfit, still in process of formation. In general, it may be said that it is modeled on the lines of the old N. Y. Cloak Commission, over which Mr. George W. Alger had successfully presided for several years, except that it is not confined to State lines any longer but takes in every cloak market in the country. It should prove workable and effective as did the code authority which, to all intents and purposes, it succeeds.

## "17" Is Thirty Years Old

It is difficult to conceive that thirty summers and winters already have elapsed since a group of men—mostly young men—got together in 1905, their hearts aflame with idealism and their minds set upon economic freedom, and formed the nucleus of what has since become the Infants' and Children's Coat and Reefer Makers' Union, Local 17.

We have other locals in the I. L. G. W. U. which stand out as landmarks upon its map, locals with whose names there are associated pages of cloakmaker or dressmaker history. But within the broad confines of our firmament there is probably no brighter luminary than "Local 17"—lusty, fighting, ever-young and ever forward-looking.

At the current moment of our organizational chronicle, as we are looking into a future that holds the possibility of another conflict in the cloak industry, there is no one among us who is not confident that the reedmakers will fully discharge their duty in that conflict as veterans in the battalions of our army.

Local 17, indeed, may look with well-merited pride upon its history of thirty years. Its membership and its leadership should be heartily congratulated upon these three decades of constant advance.

## ::: The Men Who Built the New Unity House :::

